

Proposed pilot duty changes draw ire from US carriers

US carriers united under the Air Transport Association of America believe FAA's proposed changes to pilot flight and duty time carry a \$2 billion price tag and could result in a significant job loss. The agency released its proposed rulemaking roughly a year ago that shrinks maximum flight duty time for pilots, and also increases the consecutive hours free from duty every week by 25%.

Citing an economic analysis of the proposed rule conducted by consultancy Oliver Wyman, ATA stated 12,000 to 27,000 direct US airline jobs could be eliminated, and up to 400,000 related industry positions.

"The rule will drive job loss because airlines will be forced to reduce service and cut jobs in order to absorb the new costs the rule imposes," said ATA.

ATA warns that the estimated \$2 billion in increased annual costs for carriers to comply with the rule would not be passed to customers, resulting in route cuts and the elimination of jobs.

In a recent report examining how the US Federal Aviation Administration handles fatigue the Department of Transportation's Inspector General warned the proposed rule "faces significant opposition from the aviation industry".

Citing historical opposition from the aviation industry regarding revamping duty and rest rules, "it will be difficult for FAA to implement a final rule on new flight, duty and rest regulations", said IG.

Source: Air Transport Intelligence news