

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 678

To amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier and are not unnecessarily held on a grounded air carrier before or after a flight, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2007

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier and are not unnecessarily held on a grounded air carrier before or after a flight, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Airline Passenger Bill
5 of Rights Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. AIRLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 417 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“Subchapter IV—Airline Customer Service**6 **“SEC. 41781. AIRLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
8 date of the enactment of the Airline Passenger Bill of
9 Rights Act of 2007, each air carrier shall institute the fol-
10 lowing practices:

11 “(1) PROVISION OF FOOD AND WATER.—In any
12 case in which departure of a flight of an air carrier
13 is delayed, such air carrier shall provide—

14 “(A) adequate food and potable water to
15 passengers on such flight during such delay;
16 and

17 “(B) adequate restroom facilities to pas-
18 sengers on such flight during such delay.

19 “(2) RIGHT TO DEPLANE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), if more than 3 hours after
22 passengers have boarded an air carrier and the
23 air carrier doors are closed, the air carrier has
24 not departed, the air carrier shall provide pas-
25 sengers with the option to deplane safely before
26 the departure of such air carrier. Such option

1 shall be provided to passengers not less often
2 than once during each 3-hour period that the
3 plane remains on the ground.

4 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Subparagraph (A)
5 shall not apply—

6 “(i) if the pilot of such flight reason-
7 ably determines that such flight will depart
8 not later than 30 minutes after the 3 hour
9 delay; or

10 “(ii) if the pilot of such flight reason-
11 ably determines that permitting a pas-
12 senger to deplane would jeopardize pas-
13 senger safety or security.

14 “(b) AIR CARRIER.—In this section the term ‘air car-
15 rier’ means an air carrier holding a certificate issued
16 under section 41102 that conducts scheduled passenger
17 air transportation.”.

18 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
20 portation shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-
21 retary determines necessary to carry out the amendments
22 made by this Act.

23 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter anal-
24 ysis for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—AIRLINE CUSTOMER SERVICE

“41781. Airline customer service requirements.”.

