

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1972

To require air carriers to modify certain policies with respect to the use of epinephrine for in-flight emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require air carriers to modify certain policies with respect to the use of epinephrine for in-flight emergencies, 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 Access to
5 Emergency Epinephrine Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO EPINEPHRINE ON AIR-**
7 **CRAFT.**

8 (a) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO USE OF EPINEPH-
9 RINE AMPULES.—Not later than 30 days after the date

1 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
2 Federal Aviation Administration shall clarify, and shall re-
3 quire air carriers to clarify, that 1:1,000 epinephrine am-
4 pules included in emergency medical kits carried on air-
5 craft before such date of enactment are intended to be
6 used for the treatment of anaphylaxis.

7 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR AIR CARRIERS TO CARRY
8 EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS ON AIRCRAFT.—Not
9 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
10 this Act, the Administrator shall require an air carrier—

11 (1) to carry on each aircraft operated by the air
12 carrier not fewer than 2 packs of epinephrine auto-
13 injectors, one pack for use on individuals weighing
14 less than 66 pounds and one pack for use on individ-
15 uals weighing more than 66 pounds;

16 (2) to use those epinephrine auto-injectors as
17 the initial treatment for anaphylaxis; and

18 (3) to replace those epinephrine auto-injectors
19 upon expiration or use.

20 (c) TRAINING REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
22 trator shall require air carriers to provide crewmembers
23 with initial and recurrent training, developed based on the
24 advice of experts, on how to recognize the symptoms of

1 an acute allergic reaction and how to administer auto-
2 injectable epinephrine.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON AIR CARRIER POLICIES RELATING TO**
4 **PASSENGERS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES.**

5 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
7 States shall submit to Congress a report describing—

8 (1) the policies of air carriers in effect as of the
9 date of the report with respect to the accommoda-
10 tion of passengers with food allergies, including poli-
11 cies relating to communication with passengers,
12 seating accommodations, food service, and emer-
13 gency procedures;

14 (2) the extent of variability of such policies
15 within and among air carriers;

16 (3) the extent to which passengers can deter-
17 mine what the policies of an air carrier with respect
18 to the accommodation of passengers with food aller-
19 gies are before making a flight reservation on an air-
20 craft operated by the air carrier;

21 (4) the extent to which employees of air carriers
22 are trained on, aware of, consistently adhere to, and
23 enforce such policies;

24 (5) the efforts that would be necessary to de-
25 velop a model policy with respect to the accommoda-

1 tion of passengers with food allergies that could be
2 made available to and adopted by all air carriers;

3 (6) the incidence of requests made by pas-
4 sengers with food allergies for accommodation by air
5 carriers;

6 (7) the incidence of in-flight allergic reactions
7 for which medical intervention is requested and the
8 prevalence of the use of epinephrine for such inci-
9 dents;

10 (8) the incidence of emergency landings made
11 because of suspected or known allergic reactions in
12 flight; and

13 (9) the approximate cost of such emergency
14 landings to air carriers.

15 **SEC. 4. AIR CARRIER DEFINED.**

16 In this Act, the term “air carrier” means an air car-
17 rier or foreign air carrier, as those terms are defined in
18 section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

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