

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1420

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require an air carrier to provide information to the public regarding its policies for imposing baggage fees and assisting passengers during a widespread disruption of service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2017

Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require an air carrier to provide information to the public regarding its policies for imposing baggage fees and assisting passengers during a widespread disruption of service, 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 “Know Before You Fly
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FEES.**

2 Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(d) DISCLOSURE OF FEES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unfair or de-
6 ceptive practice under subsection (a) for any air car-
7 rier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent to fail to in-
8 clude, in an internet fare quotation for a specific
9 itinerary in air transportation selected by a con-
10 sumer, a clear and prominent statement that addi-
11 tional fees for checked baggage and carry-on bag-
12 gage may apply, along with a prominent link from
13 that internet website page directly to a list of all
14 such fees.

15 “(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
16 section may be construed to derogate or limit any
17 responsibilities of an air carrier, foreign air carrier,
18 or ticket agent under section 399.85 of title 14,
19 Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor provi-
20 sion.”.

21 **SEC. 3. WIDESPREAD DISRUPTIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United
23 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“§ 42304. Widespread disruptions**

2 “(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—A covered air car-
 3 rier shall publish, via a prominent link on the air carrier’s
 4 public internet website, a clear statement indicating
 5 whether or not, with respect to a passenger of the air car-
 6 rier whose travel is interrupted as a result of a widespread
 7 disruption, the air carrier will—

8 “(1) provide for hotel accommodations;

9 “(2) arrange for ground transportation;

10 “(3) provide meal vouchers;

11 “(4) arrange for air transportation on another
 12 air carrier or foreign air carrier to the passenger’s
 13 destination; and

14 “(5) provide for sleeping facilities, food, and
 15 water inside the airport terminal.

16 “(b) TRANSPORTATION ON OTHER AIR CARRIERS.—
 17 The information provided by a covered air carrier under
 18 subsection (a)(4) shall identify each air carrier and foreign
 19 air carrier with which the covered air carrier will arrange
 20 air transportation as described in subsection (a)(4).

21 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
 22 definitions apply:

23 “(1) WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION.—The term
 24 ‘widespread disruption’ means, with respect to a cov-
 25 ered air carrier, the interruption of all or a substan-
 26 tial portion of the air carrier’s system-wide flight op-

1 erations, including flight delays and cancellations, as
 2 the result of the failure of one or more computer
 3 systems or computer networks of the air carrier.

4 “(2) COVERED AIR CARRIER.—The term ‘cov-
 5 ered air carrier’ means an air carrier that provides
 6 scheduled or public charter passenger air transpor-
 7 tation by operating an aircraft that as originally de-
 8 signed has a passenger capacity of thirty or more
 9 seats.

10 “(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
 11 may be construed to modify, abridge, or repeal any obliga-
 12 tion of an air carrier under section 42301.”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 14 chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
 15 by adding at the end the following:

“42304. Widespread disruptions.”.

16 **SEC. 4. CABIN AIR QUALITY.**

17 (a) DESIGNATION OF OFFICE.—Not later than 90
 18 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
 19 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall des-
 20 ignate an office of the Administration to receive and ana-
 21 lyze reports involving fumes in the air conditioning and
 22 pressurization systems of aircraft operated under the pro-
 23 visions of part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-
 24 tions.

1 (b) CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—If the head of the office
2 designated under subsection (a) determines with respect
3 to a report received under subsection (a) that corrective
4 action would reduce the recurrence of an event described
5 in the report, the head of the office shall transmit that
6 determination to the Associate Administrator for Aviation
7 Safety.

8 (c) STANDARDIZED REPORTING.—Not later than 60
9 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10 trator shall issue guidance to air carrier employees regard-
11 ing terminology and phraseology for standardized report-
12 ing of fume events in the Administration’s standard serv-
13 ice difficulty reports.

14 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
16 the head of the office designated under subsection (a) shall
17 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
18 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
20 Senate a report on—

- 21 (1) the number of reports received under sub-
22 section (a);
23 (2) the disposition of the reports; and

1 (3) the status of the Administration's imple-
2 mentation of any corrective actions identified under
3 subsection (b).

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