

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1206

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit aircraft from having in place cameras and microphones that can monitor passengers.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2019

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

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit aircraft from having in place cameras and microphones that can monitor passengers.

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 “Passenger Privacy Pro-  
5 tection Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO CAMERAS AND**  
 2 **MICROPHONES ON AIRCRAFT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417 of  
 4 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
 5 end the following:

6 **“SEC. 41725. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO CAMERAS AND**  
 7 **MICROPHONES ON AIRCRAFT.**

8 “(a) PROHIBITIONS.—The following rules shall apply  
 9 to all aircraft of an air carrier and a foreign air carrier:

10 “(1) Any in-flight entertainment system in-  
 11 stalled on the aircraft after the date of the enact-  
 12 ment of this section may not have an embedded  
 13 camera or microphone. In the case where the air-  
 14 craft has, as of such date of enactment, a existing  
 15 camera or microphone embedded in an in-flight en-  
 16 tertainment system, by not later than 2 months  
 17 after such date of enactment—

18 “(A) the camera shall be either—

19 “(i) removed;

20 “(ii) permanently disabled and cov-  
 21 ered; or

22 “(iii) covered in a fashion that pre-  
 23 vents the camera from making any obser-  
 24 vation; and

25 “(B) the microphone shall be either—

26 “(i) removed; or

1 “(ii) physically disconnected and cov-  
 2 ered in a fashion that renders the micro-  
 3 phone ineffective.

4 “(2) Any camera or microphone that is de-  
 5 signed to observe a passenger and that is separate  
 6 from an in-flight entertainment system may not be  
 7 installed on the aircraft after the date of the enact-  
 8 ment of this section. Any such camera or micro-  
 9 phone that was installed on the aircraft prior to  
 10 such date of enactment shall be removed within 2  
 11 months of such date of enactment.

12 “(b) CHANGES TO REMOTE SWITCHES NOT SUFFI-  
 13 CIENT.—Changes made by an air carrier or a foreign air  
 14 carrier to remote switches of an in-flight entertainment  
 15 system are not sufficient to meet the requirements of sub-  
 16 section (a)(1).”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
 18 ter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
 19 inserting after the item relating to section 41724 the fol-  
 20 lowing:

“41725. Prohibitions relating to cameras and microphones on aircraft.”.

21 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING AUDITS OF AIRLINES REGARDING THE**  
 22 **INFORMATION THEY COLLECT ON PAS-**  
 23 **SENGERS.**

24 The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
 25 tration shall periodically conduct audits of air carriers and

1 foreign air carriers (as such terms are defined in section  
2 40102 of title 49, United States Code) regarding the in-  
3 formation the carrier collects with respect to passengers  
4 on its aircraft, including any information obtained through  
5 the physical surveillance of passengers.

