

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1318

To protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2017

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN,
and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
tation

A BILL

To protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air
transportation, 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 “Air Carrier Access
5 Amendments Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed
2 the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–
3 435; 100 Stat. 1080), adding a provision now codi-
4 fied in section 41705 of title 49, United States Code
5 (in this section referred to as the “ACAA”), prohib-
6 iting disability-based discrimination in air transpor-
7 tation.

8 (2) Despite progress, many individuals with dis-
9 abilities, including veterans, still encounter signifi-
10 cant barriers while traveling in air transportation,
11 such as—

12 (A) damaged assistive devices;

13 (B) inaccessible aircraft, lavatories, and
14 communication media;

15 (C) delayed assistance;

16 (D) inequitable treatment of service ani-
17 mals;

18 (E) inadequate disability cultural com-
19 petency; and

20 (F) a lack of suitable seating accommoda-
21 tions.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The following is the sense
23 of Congress:

24 (1) Access for individuals with disabilities in air
25 transportation must move into the 21st century.

1 Otherwise, individuals with disabilities will be left
2 behind and unable to compete in today’s job market
3 or enjoy the opportunities available to other citizens
4 of the United States.

5 (2) Aircraft must be designed to accommodate
6 individuals with disabilities and air carriers must ac-
7 quire aircraft that meet broad accessibility stand-
8 ards.

9 (3) The ACAA must be updated to improve ac-
10 cess to air transportation for individuals with dis-
11 abilities. Legislation is necessary for the moderniza-
12 tion of standards and requirements that will
13 strengthen accessibility in air transportation, includ-
14 ing the accessibility of aircraft.

15 (4) The Department of Transportation and the
16 Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compli-
17 ance Board (in this section referred to as the “Ac-
18 cess Board”) must promulgate regulations to ensure
19 that all passengers with disabilities receive—

20 (A) prompt and effective boarding,
21 deplaning, and connections between flights;

22 (B) accommodations, including non-
23 standard accommodations, that safely facilitate
24 air travel; and

1 (C) better access to airport facilities, in-
 2 cluding the provision of visually accessible an-
 3 nouncements and full and equal access to aural
 4 communications.

5 (5) Legislation is necessary to ensure that indi-
 6 viduals with disabilities have adequate remedies
 7 available when air carriers violate the ACAA (includ-
 8 ing regulations prescribed under the ACAA).

9 (6) Unlike other civil rights statutes, the ACAA
 10 does not contain a private right of action, which is
 11 critical to the enforcement of civil rights statutes.
 12 Legislation is necessary to correct this anomaly.

13 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) ACCESS BOARD.—The term “Access Board”
 16 means the Architectural and Transportation Bar-
 17 riers Compliance Board.

18 (2) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier”
 19 means an air carrier or foreign air carrier (as those
 20 terms are defined in section 40102 of title 49,
 21 United States Code).

22 (3) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
 23 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Ameri-
 24 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 25 12102), including the meaning under that section as

1 amended by the ADA Amendments of 2008 (Public
2 Law 110–325; 122 Stat. 3553).

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Transportation.

5 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING ACCESS TO AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR**
6 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 41705 of title 49, United
8 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 **“§ 41705. Accessibility of air transportation for indi-**
10 **viduals with disabilities**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In providing air transportation,
12 an air carrier may not discriminate against an individual
13 on the basis of a disability, including by taking any of
14 the actions prohibited under subsection (b) or not taking
15 any of the actions required by subsection (c).

16 “(b) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An air carrier may not—

18 “(A) directly or through a contractual, li-
19 censing, or other arrangement, discriminate in
20 the full and equal enjoyment (within the mean-
21 ing of that term under section 302(a) of the
22 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42
23 U.S.C. 12182(a))) of air transportation;

24 “(B) deny the opportunity of an individual
25 or a class of individuals, on the basis of a dis-

1 ability or disabilities of the individual or class,
2 to participate in or benefit from the goods,
3 services, facilities, advantages, accommodations,
4 or other opportunities provided by the air car-
5 rier;

6 “(C) afford an individual or a class of indi-
7 viduals, on the basis of a disability or disabil-
8 ities of the individual or class, with the oppor-
9 tunity to participate in or benefit from a good,
10 service, facility, advantage, accommodation, or
11 other opportunity that is not equal to a good,
12 service, facility, advantage, accommodation, or
13 other opportunity afforded to other individuals;

14 “(D) subject to paragraph (2), provide an
15 individual or a class of individuals, on the basis
16 of a disability or disabilities of the individual or
17 class, with a good, service, facility, privilege, ad-
18 vantage, accommodation, or other opportunity
19 that is different or separate from a good, serv-
20 ice, facility, privilege, advantage, accommoda-
21 tion, or other opportunity provided to other in-
22 dividuals;

23 “(E) deny any goods, services, facilities,
24 privileges, advantages, accommodations, or
25 other opportunities to an individual because of

1 the known disability of another individual with
2 whom the individual is known to have a rela-
3 tionship or association;

4 “(F) impose or apply eligibility criteria
5 that screen out or have the effect of screening
6 out individuals with disabilities or a class of in-
7 dividuals with disabilities from fully enjoying
8 any good, service, facility, privilege, advantage,
9 accommodation, or other opportunity provided
10 by the air carrier, unless the air carrier can
11 demonstrate that such criteria are necessary for
12 the provision of the good, service, facility, privi-
13 lege, advantage, accommodation, or other op-
14 portunity;

15 “(G) directly or through a contractual, li-
16 censing, or other arrangement, use standards or
17 criteria or methods of administration—

18 “(i) that have the effect of discrimi-
19 nating on the basis of disability; or

20 “(ii) that perpetuate the discrimina-
21 tion of others who are subject to common
22 administrative control;

23 “(H) purchase or lease an aircraft that
24 does not comply with this section and regula-
25 tions prescribed under this section; or

“(I) refurbish an aircraft manufactured before the date of the enactment of the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2017, or purchase or lease such an aircraft, unless the aircraft, to the maximum extent feasible, is made readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, in accordance with this section and upon issuance of regulations prescribed under this section.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an air carrier may provide an individual or a class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of the individual or class, with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, accommodation, or other opportunity that is different or separate from the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, accommodation, or other opportunity provided to other individuals if doing so is necessary to provide the individual or class of individuals with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, accommodation, or other opportunity that is as effective as the good, service, facility, privilege,

1 advantage, accommodation, or other oppor-
2 tunity provided to other individuals.

3 “(B) ACCEPTANCE.—An individual or a
4 class of individuals shall retain the authority to
5 decide whether to accept or refuse a good, serv-
6 ice, facility, privilege, advantage, accommoda-
7 tion, or other opportunity referred to in sub-
8 paragraph (A).

9 “(C) SELECTION OF GOODS, ETC., PRO-
10 VIDED TO OTHERS.—If, in accordance with sub-
11 paragraph (A), an air carrier provides to an in-
12 dividual or a class of individuals a good, service,
13 facility, privilege, advantage, accommodation, or
14 other opportunity that is different or separate
15 from the good, service, facility, privilege, advan-
16 tage, accommodation, or other opportunity pro-
17 vided to other individuals, the air carrier may
18 not deny to an individual with a disability the
19 opportunity to participate in the good, service,
20 facility, privilege, advantage, accommodation, or
21 other opportunity provided to such other indi-
22 viduals.

23 “(c) REQUIRED ACTIONS.—An air carrier shall—

24 “(1) afford goods, services, facilities, privileges,
25 advantages, accommodations, and other opportuni-

1 ties to an individual with a disability in the most in-
2 tegrated setting appropriate to the needs of the indi-
3 vidual;

4 “(2) make reasonable modifications in policies,
5 practices, or procedures, when such modifications
6 are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities,
7 privileges, advantages, accommodations, or other op-
8 portunities to individuals with disabilities, unless the
9 air carrier can demonstrate that making such modi-
10 fications would fundamentally alter the nature of the
11 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, ac-
12 commodations, or other opportunities;

13 “(3) take such measures as may be necessary
14 to ensure that no individual with a disability is ex-
15 cluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise
16 treated differently from other individuals because of
17 the absence of auxiliary aids or services, unless the
18 air carrier can demonstrate that taking such meas-
19 ures would—

20 “(A) fundamentally alter the nature of a
21 good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, ac-
22 commodation, or other opportunity being of-
23 fered; or

24 “(B) result in an undue burden to the air
25 carrier; and

1 “(4)(A) remove architectural barriers to equal
2 access by individuals with disabilities to goods, serv-
3 ices, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommoda-
4 tions, or other opportunities provided by the air car-
5 rier, and communication barriers to such access that
6 are structural in nature, in facilities of the air car-
7 rier (whether owned or leased by the air carrier)
8 that were constructed before or altered after the
9 date of the enactment of the Air Carrier Access
10 Amendments Act of 2017, and remove barriers to
11 such access in aircraft manufactured before such
12 date of enactment and used by an air carrier for
13 transporting individuals, if the removal of such bar-
14 riers is readily achievable; or

15 “(B) if the air carrier can demonstrate that the
16 removal of a barrier described in subparagraph (A)
17 is not readily achievable, make such goods, services,
18 facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations, or
19 other opportunities available through alternative
20 methods that are readily achievable.

21 “(d) COMPLAINTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transpor-
23 tation shall ensure that individuals with disabilities
24 traveling in air transportation are able—

1 “(A) to file complaints with the Depart-
 2 ment of Transportation in response to dis-
 3 ability-related discrimination prohibited under
 4 this section or regulations prescribed under this
 5 section; and

6 “(B) to receive assistance from the De-
 7 partment through a toll-free hotline telephone
 8 number or comparable electronic means of com-
 9 munication.

10 “(2) NOTICE TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABIL-
 11 ITIES.—Each air carrier shall include on its publicly
 12 available Internet website, any related mobile device
 13 application, and online service—

14 “(A) the hotline telephone number estab-
 15 lished under section 42302 or the telephone
 16 number for the Aviation Consumer Protection
 17 Division of the Department of Transportation
 18 and the Department’s disability assistance hot-
 19 line telephone number or a comparable elec-
 20 tronic means of communication;

21 “(B) notice that a consumer can file a dis-
 22 ability-related complaint with the Aviation Con-
 23 sumer Protection Division;

24 “(C) an active link to the Internet website
 25 of the Aviation Consumer Protection Division

1 for a consumer to file a disability-related com-
2 plaint; and

3 “(D) notice that the consumer can file a
4 disability-related complaint with the air carrier
5 and the process and any timelines for filing
6 such a complaint.

7 “(3) INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

9 “(i) investigate each complaint of a
10 violation of this section or a regulation pre-
11 scribed under this section; and

12 “(ii) provide, in writing, to the indi-
13 vidual that filed the complaint and the air
14 carrier alleged to have violated this section
15 or a regulation prescribed under this sec-
16 tion, the determination of the Secretary
17 with respect to—

18 “(I) whether the air carrier vio-
19 lated this section or a regulation pre-
20 scribed under this section; and

21 “(II) the facts underlying the
22 complaint.

23 “(B) REFERRAL.—If the Secretary has
24 reasonable cause to believe that any air carrier
25 or group of air carriers is engaged in a pattern

1 or practice of discrimination under this section,
2 or any person or group of persons has been dis-
3 criminated against under this section and such
4 discrimination raises an issue of general public
5 importance, the Secretary shall refer the matter
6 to the Attorney General.

7 “(C) PUBLICATION OF DATA.—The Sec-
8 retary shall publish disability-related complaint
9 data in a manner comparable to other aviation
10 consumer complaint data.

11 “(D) REVIEW AND REPORT.—The Sec-
12 retary shall regularly review all complaints re-
13 ceived by air carriers alleging discrimination on
14 the basis of disability and shall report annually
15 to Congress on the disposition of such com-
16 plaints.

17 “(e) CIVIL ACTION.—

18 “(1) AGGRIEVED PERSONS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person aggrieved
20 by the violation by an air carrier of this section
21 or a regulation prescribed under this section
22 may, during the 2-year period beginning on the
23 date of the violation, bring a civil action in an
24 appropriate district court of the United States.

“(B) AVAILABLE RELIEF.—If a court finds in favor of the plaintiff in a civil action brought under subparagraph (A), the court may award to the plaintiff equitable and legal relief, including compensatory and punitive damages, and shall, in addition to any such relief, award reasonable attorney’s fees, reasonable expert fees, and cost of the action to the plaintiff.

“(C) EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.—Any person aggrieved by the violation by an air carrier of this section or a regulation prescribed under this section shall not be required to exhaust administrative remedies before bringing a civil action under subparagraph (A).

“(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to invalidate or limit other Federal or State laws affording to people with disabilities greater legal rights or protections than those granted by this section.

“(2) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action on behalf of persons

1 aggrieved by the violation by an air carrier of
2 this section or a regulation prescribed under
3 this section in any appropriate district court of
4 the United States.

5 “(B) AUTHORITY OF COURT.—In a civil
6 action under subparagraph (A), the court
7 may—

8 “(i) grant any equitable relief that the
9 court considers to be appropriate;

10 “(ii) award such other relief as the
11 court considers to be appropriate, includ-
12 ing monetary damages to persons ag-
13 grieved by the violation by an air carrier of
14 this section or a regulation prescribed
15 under this section, when requested by the
16 Attorney General; and

17 “(iii) assess a civil penalty against the
18 air carrier.

19 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
20 chapter shall require an air carrier to permit an individual
21 to participate in or benefit from goods, services, facilities,
22 privileges, advantages, accommodations, or other opportu-
23 nities if the individual poses a significant risk to the health
24 or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modi-

1 fication of policies, practices, or procedures or by the pro-
 2 vision of auxiliary aids or services.

3 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ACCESS BOARD.—The term ‘Access Board’
 5 means the Architectural and Transportation Bar-
 6 riers Compliance Board.

7 “(2) AIR CARRIER.—The term ‘air carrier’
 8 means an air carrier or, subject to section 40105(b),
 9 a foreign air carrier.

10 “(3) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the
 11 meaning given that term in section 3 of the Ameri-
 12 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 13 12102), including the meaning under that section as
 14 amended by the ADA Amendments of 2008 (Public
 15 Law 110–325; 122 Stat. 3553).

16 “(4) READILY ACHIEVABLE.—The term ‘readily
 17 achievable’ means easily accomplishable and able to
 18 be carried out without much difficulty or expense. In
 19 determining whether an action is readily achievable,
 20 factors to be considered include—

21 “(A) the nature and cost of the action
 22 needed; and

23 “(B) the overall financial resources of the
 24 air carrier.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 180
 2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 3 retary shall ensure the availability and provision of appro-
 4 priate technical assistance manuals to individuals and en-
 5 tities with rights or responsibilities under section 41705
 6 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by subsection
 7 (c).

8 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis
 9 for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
 10 ed by striking the item relating to section 41705 and in-
 11 serting the following:

“41705. Accessibility of air transportation for individuals with disabilities.”.

12 **SEC. 5. STANDARDS.**

13 (a) AIRCRAFT WITH NEW OR AMENDED TYPE CER-
 14 TIFICATES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
 16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ac-
 17 cess Board shall, in consultation with the Secretary,
 18 prescribe regulations setting forth the minimum
 19 standards to ensure that aircraft with type certifi-
 20 cates under part 21 of title 14, Code of Federal
 21 Regulations, issued or amended after the date the
 22 regulations are issued, and related boarding and
 23 deplaning equipment, are accessible, in terms of de-
 24 sign for, transportation of, and communication to,

1 individuals with disabilities, including individuals
2 who use wheelchairs.

3 (2) COVERED AIRCRAFT, EQUIPMENT, AND FEA-
4 TURES.—The standards issued under paragraph (1)
5 shall address, at a minimum,—

6 (A) boarding and deplaning equipment, in-
7 cluding ensuring that there is a route accessible
8 for individuals with disabilities;

9 (B) seating accommodations;

10 (C) lavatories;

11 (D) captioning in-flight entertainment and
12 any other aural communication;

13 (E) individual video displays;

14 (F) visually accessible announcements;

15 (G) adequate in-cabin stowage for assistive
16 devices; and

17 (H) proper stowage of assistive devices in
18 the cargo hold to prevent damage.

19 (b) AIRCRAFT WITH AN EXISTING TYPE CERTIFI-
20 CATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ac-
23 cess Board shall, in consultation with the Secretary,
24 prescribe regulations setting forth minimum stand-
25 ards to ensure that barriers to the access of individ-

1 uals with disabilities, including individuals who use
2 wheelchairs, on aircraft with type certificates issued
3 under part 21 of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-
4 tions, before such date of enactment, are removed to
5 meet basic accessibility needs of individuals with dis-
6 abilities to the extent readily achievable.

7 (2) REMOVAL OF BARRIERS.—The standards
8 issued under paragraph (1) shall apply at a min-
9 imum to stowage of wheelchairs in the cargo hold,
10 captioning in-flight entertainment and any other
11 aural communication, visually accessible announce-
12 ments, individual video displays, and improved ac-
13 cess to seating and lavatories in all aircraft.

14 (c) AIRPORT FACILITIES.—Not later than one year
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Access
16 Board shall, in consultation with the Secretary, issue or
17 revise standards that ensure all gates (including counters),
18 ticketing areas, and customer service desks at airports are
19 accessible to and usable by all individuals with disabilities,
20 including through the provision of visually accessible an-
21 nouncements and full and equal access to aural commu-
22 nications.

23 (d) WEBSITES AND KIOSKS.—Not later than one
24 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ac-
25 cess Board shall, in consultation with the Secretary, pre-

1 scribe regulations setting forth minimum standards to en-
 2 sure that individuals with disabilities are able to access
 3 kiosks and websites in a manner that is equally as effective
 4 as individuals without disabilities, with a substantially
 5 equivalent ease of use. Such standards shall be consistent
 6 with the standards set forth in the Web Content Accessi-
 7 bility Guidelines 2.0 Level AA of the Web Accessibility Ini-
 8 tiative of the World Wide Web Consortium or any subse-
 9 quent version.

10 (e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
 11 the Access Board issues standards under this section, the
 12 Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary
 13 to implement those standards, including the requirement
 14 to maintain accessible features of aircraft, equipment, and
 15 facilities.

16 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

17 (a) ACCESSIBILITY OF AIR TRAVEL TO INDIVIDUALS
 18 WITH DISABILITIES.—

19 (1) ASSISTANCE.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
 21 days after the date of the enactment of this
 22 Act, the Secretary shall prescribe or revise reg-
 23 ulations to ensure that individuals with disabil-
 24 ities who request assistance at any time while
 25 traveling in air transportation receive timely

1 and effective assistance at airports and on air-
2 craft from trained personnel. Such assistance
3 may be in boarding or deplaning an aircraft,
4 connecting between flights, or any other similar
5 or related request.

6 (B) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall re-
7 quire air carriers to ensure that personnel, in-
8 cluding contractors, who may be providing
9 physical assistance to a passenger with a dis-
10 ability receive hands-on training on an annual
11 basis in performing that assistance, including
12 the use of all equipment.

13 (2) TICKETING PRACTICES AND SEAT ASSIGN-
14 MENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
15 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-
16 scribe or revise regulations—

17 (A) to ensure that individuals with disabil-
18 ities receive accommodations, if requested, in
19 ticketing and pre-flight seat assignments;

20 (B) to require air carriers to provide pri-
21 ority access to bulkhead seating to people with
22 disabilities who need access to the features of
23 those seats due to a disability regardless of
24 class of service of ticket purchased; and

1 (C) to ensure the right of passengers with
 2 disabilities to stow assistive devices, including
 3 medication and medical supplies, without cost.

4 (3) SERVICE ANIMALS.—Not later than 180
 5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 6 Secretary shall issue revised regulations—

7 (A) eliminating additional documentation
 8 for psychiatric service animals;

9 (B) protecting the ability of travelers to
 10 use emotional support animals in air transpor-
 11 tation; and

12 (C) prohibiting air carriers from requesting
 13 medical documentation regarding the need for a
 14 service animal as a standard requirement for
 15 access.

16 (b) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—The Access Board
 17 and the Secretary shall periodically review and, as appro-
 18 priate, amend regulations and standards prescribed under
 19 this section.

20 **SEC. 7. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

21 Section 46301(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
 22 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 23 graph:

24 “(7) PENALTIES RELATING TO HARM TO PAS-
 25 SENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.—

1 “(A) PENALTY FOR BODILY HARM OR DAMAGE
 2 TO WHEELCHAIR OR OTHER MOBILITY AID.—The
 3 amount of a civil penalty assessed under this section
 4 for a violation of section 41705 that involves damage
 5 to a passenger’s wheelchair or other mobility aid or
 6 injury to a passenger with a disability may be in-
 7 creased above the otherwise applicable maximum
 8 amount under this section for a violation of section
 9 41705 to an amount not to exceed 3 times the max-
 10 imum penalty otherwise allowed.

11 “(B) EACH ACT CONSTITUTES SEPARATE OF-
 12 FENSE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a separate
 13 violation of section 41705 occurs for each act of dis-
 14 crimination prohibited by that section.”.

15 **SEC. 8. AIRLINE PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES BILL OF**
 16 **RIGHTS.**

17 (a) AIRLINE PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES BILL
 18 OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall develop a document, to
 19 be known as the “Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill
 20 of Rights”, using plain language to describe the basic
 21 rights and responsibilities of air carriers, their employees
 22 and contractors, and people with disabilities under the sec-
 23 tion 41705 of title 49, United States Code, as amended
 24 by section 4.

1 (b) CONTENT.—The Airline Passengers with Disabil-
2 ities Bill of Rights shall include, at a minimum, the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (1) The right of passengers with disabilities to
5 be treated with dignity and respect.

6 (2) The right of passengers with disabilities to
7 receive timely assistance, if requested, from properly
8 trained air carrier and contractor personnel.

9 (3) The right of passengers with disabilities to
10 travel with wheelchairs, mobility aids, and other as-
11 sistive devices, including necessary medications and
12 medical supplies, including stowage of such wheel-
13 chairs, aids, and devices.

14 (4) The right of passengers with disabilities to
15 receive seating accommodations, if requested, to ac-
16 commodate a disability.

17 (5) The right of passengers with disabilities to
18 receive announcements in an accessible format.

19 (6) The right of passengers with disabilities to
20 speak with a complaint resolution officer or to file
21 a complaint with an air carrier or the Department
22 of Transportation.

23 (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the Airline Pas-
24 sengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights, the Secretary shall

1 consult with stakeholders, including disability organiza-
 2 tions and air carriers and their contractors.

3 (d) DISPLAY.—Each air carrier shall include the Air-
 4 line Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights—

5 (1) on a publicly available Internet website of
 6 the air carrier; and

7 (2) in any pre-flight notifications or commu-
 8 nications provided to passengers who alert the air
 9 carrier in advance of the need for accommodations
 10 relating to a disability.

11 (e) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that em-
 12 ployees of air carriers and their contractors receive train-
 13 ing on the Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of
 14 Rights.

15 **SEC. 9. STUDY ON IN-CABIN WHEELCHAIR RESTRAINT SYS-**
 16 **TEMS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
 18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Access Board, in
 19 consultation with the Secretary, shall—

20 (1) conduct a study to determine the ways in
 21 which individuals with significant disabilities who
 22 use wheelchairs, including power wheelchairs, can be
 23 accommodated on board aircraft through in-cabin
 24 wheelchair restraint systems;

1 (2) issue minimum guidelines for such systems;
2 and

3 (3) submit to Congress a report on the study.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
5 completing the study required by subsection (a), the Sec-
6 retary shall prescribe regulations consistent with the find-
7 ings of the study and minimum guidelines issued by the
8 Access Board under subsection (a)(2).

9 **SEC. 10. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE AIR TRAVEL**
10 **NEEDS OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an
12 advisory committee for the air travel needs of passengers
13 with disabilities (in this section referred to as the “advi-
14 sory committee”) to advise the Secretary in implementing
15 section 41705 of title 49, United States Code, as amended
16 by section 4.

17 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint
19 the members of the advisory committee as follows:

20 (A) At least 2 members of the advisory
21 committee shall be representatives of each of
22 the following:

23 (i) Individual passengers with disabil-
24 ities.

25 (ii) National disability organizations.

1 (B) At least 2 members of the advisory
2 committee shall be representatives of each of
3 the following:

4 (i) Airport operators.

5 (ii) Air carriers.

6 (iii) Entities contracted by air carriers
7 to provide services to individuals with dis-
8 abilities.

9 (c) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the advisory
10 committee shall serve without pay but shall receive travel
11 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
12 cordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall designate,
15 from among the individuals appointed under subsection
16 (b)(1)(A), an individual to serve as chairperson of the ad-
17 visory committee.

18 (e) DUTIES.—The duties of the advisory committee
19 shall include—

20 (1) assessing the disability-related access bar-
21 riers encountered by air travelers with disabilities;

22 (2) determining the extent to which the pro-
23 grams and activities of the Department of Transpor-
24 tation are addressing those barriers;

1 (3) making recommendations to the Secretary
2 with respect to improving the air travel experience of
3 passengers with disabilities; and

4 (4) carrying out activities needed to make the
5 reports and recommendations required by subsection
6 (f).

7 (f) REPORTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1,
9 2018, and annually thereafter, the advisory com-
10 mittee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the
11 needs of passengers with disabilities in air travel.
12 Each report shall contain—

13 (A) an assessment of disability-related ac-
14 cess barriers that were evident in the preceding
15 year and those that are likely to be an issue
16 during the 5-year period beginning on the date
17 of the report;

18 (B) an evaluation of the extent to which
19 the programs and activities of the Department
20 of Transportation are eliminating disability-re-
21 lated access barriers;

22 (C) a description of the actions of the advi-
23 sory committee during the preceding calendar
24 year;

1 (D) a description of activities that the ad-
2 visory committee proposes to undertake in the
3 succeeding calendar year; and

4 (E) any recommendations for legislation,
5 administrative action, and other action that the
6 advisory committee considers appropriate.

7 (2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
8 60 days after receiving a report under paragraph
9 (1), the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a copy
10 of the report along with any comments that the Sec-
11 retary considers appropriate.

12 (g) TERMINATION.—Notwithstanding section 14 of
13 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 14),
14 the advisory committee shall continue in effect until termi-
15 nated by an Act of Congress.

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