

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4156

To amend title 49, United States Code, to allow advertisements and solicitations for passenger air transportation to state the base airfare of the transportation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LOBIONDO, 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 allow advertisements and solicitations for passenger air transportation to state the base airfare of the 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 “Transparent Airfares
5 Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVERTISEMENTS AND SOLICITATIONS FOR PAS-**
2 **SENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION.**

3 (a) FULL FARE ADVERTISING.—Section 41712 of
4 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 “(d) FULL FARE ADVERTISING.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be an unfair or
8 deceptive practice under subsection (a) for a covered
9 entity to state in an advertisement or solicitation for
10 passenger air transportation the base airfare for the
11 air transportation if the covered entity clearly and
12 separately discloses—

13 “(A) the government-imposed taxes and
14 fees associated with the air transportation; and

15 “(B) the total cost of the air transpor-
16 tation.

17 “(2) FORM OF DISCLOSURE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of para-
19 graph (1), the information described in para-
20 graphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) shall be disclosed in
21 the advertisement or solicitation in a manner
22 that clearly presents the information to the con-
23 sumer.

24 “(B) INTERNET ADVERTISEMENTS AND
25 SOLICITATIONS.—For purposes of paragraph
26 (1), with respect to an advertisement or sollicita-

tion for passenger air transportation that appears on an Internet Web site, the information described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) may be disclosed through a link or pop-up, as such terms may be defined by the Secretary, that displays the information in a manner that is easily accessible and viewable by the consumer.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

“(A) BASE AIRFARE.—The term ‘base airfare’ means the cost of passenger air transportation, excluding government-imposed taxes and fees.

“(B) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means an air carrier, including an indirect air carrier, foreign carrier, ticket agent, or other person offering to sell tickets for passenger air transportation or a tour or tour component that must be purchased with air transportation.”.

(b) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) may be construed to affect any obligation of a person that sells air transportation to disclose the total cost of the air

1 transportation, including government-imposed taxes and
2 fees, prior to purchase of the air transportation.

3 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
5 final regulations to carry out the amendment made by sub-
6 section (a).

7 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amend-
8 ments made by this Act, shall take effect on the earlier
9 of—

10 (1) the effective date of regulations issued
11 under subsection (c); and

12 (2) the date that is 180 days after the date of
13 enactment of this Act.

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