

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 947

To protect passengers on flights in air transportation from being denied boarding involuntarily, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2017

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) 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 protect passengers on flights in air transportation from being denied boarding involuntarily, 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 “Transparency Improve-  
5 ments and Compensation to Keep Every Ticketholder Safe  
6 Act of 2017” or the “TICKETS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PASSENGERS FROM BEING DE-**  
2 **NIED BOARDING INVOLUNTARILY.**

3 (a) **RIGHT TO FLY OF BOARDED PASSENGERS.**—An  
4 air carrier may not, on or after the date of the enactment  
5 of this Act, deny boarding a flight operated by the air car-  
6 rier to a passenger without the consent of the passenger  
7 once the passenger is approved by the gate attendant to  
8 clear the boarding area and board the flight unless the  
9 passenger presents a safety, security, or health risk, as  
10 determined by the Secretary of Transportation.

11 (b) **ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION**  
12 **FOR BEING DENIED BOARDING.**—Not later than 180  
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
14 retary of Transportation shall revise the regulations under  
15 part 250 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to elimi-  
16 nate the dollar amount limitations under paragraphs (2)  
17 and (3) of subsections (a) and (b) of section 250.5 of such  
18 title on the amount of compensation that may be provided  
19 to a passenger who is denied boarding involuntarily.

20 (c) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF SEATS THAT MAY**  
21 **BE OVERSOLD.**—In revising under subsection (b) the reg-  
22 ulations under part 250 of title 14, Code of Federal Regu-  
23 lations, the Secretary shall—

24 (1) determine whether a limitation on the num-  
25 ber of seats that may be oversold for a flight is nec-  
26 essary; and

1           (2) if the Secretary determines that such a limi-  
2           tation is necessary, consider whether to impose such  
3           a limitation based on a percentage of the seats avail-  
4           able on an aircraft.

5           (d) REGULATIONS RELATING TO ACCOMMODATION  
6           OF AIR CARRIER EMPLOYEES.—Not later than 180 days  
7           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
8           shall prescribe regulations requiring an air carrier seeking  
9           accommodation on a flight for an employee of the air car-  
10          rier or another air carrier to check that employee in for  
11          the flight not later than 60 minutes before the flight is  
12          scheduled to depart.

13          (e) NOTICE OF POLICIES OF AIR CARRIERS ON  
14          OVERSOLD FLIGHTS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
15          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pre-  
16          scribe regulations requiring—

17                 (1) an air carrier, or other entity selling tickets  
18                 for flights in passenger air transportation, to speci-  
19                 fy, on a passenger’s flight itinerary and receipt, the  
20                 policies of the air carrier operating the flight with  
21                 respect to oversold flights and with respect to requir-  
22                 ing passengers to give up seats to employees of the  
23                 air carrier; and

24                 (2) an air carrier to post those policies publicly  
25                 at each gate of the air carrier at an airport.

1       (f) AIR CARRIER DEFINED.—In this section, the  
2 term “air carrier” means an air carrier or foreign air car-  
3 rier, as those terms are defined in section 40102 of title  
4 49, United States Code.

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