

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6965

To provide for cash refunds for canceled airline flights and tickets during the COVID–19 emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for cash refunds for canceled airline flights and tickets during the COVID–19 emergency.

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 “Cash Refunds for
5 Coronavirus Cancellations Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CASH REFUNDS FOR CANCELED AIRLINE FLIGHTS**
2 **AND TICKETS DURING THE COVID-19 EMER-**
3 **GENCY.**

4 (a) CASH REFUNDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A covered carrier or ticket
6 agent who sells a ticket for a passenger to take a
7 covered flight, and either such flight is canceled by
8 the covered carrier or such ticket is canceled by the
9 passenger, shall promptly offer the passenger a full
10 cash refund for such ticket, including any ancillary
11 fees paid.

12 (2) ALTERNATIVE FORM OF COMPENSATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—A covered carrier or
14 ticket agent may also offer an alternative form
15 of compensation determined appropriate by the
16 covered carrier or ticket agent, including credit,
17 voucher, or other mechanism to compensate a
18 passenger, provided that any such offer includes
19 clear and conspicuous notice of a passenger's
20 right to a cash refund under paragraph (1).

21 (B) NO EXPIRATION DATE.—An alter-
22 native form of compensation provided pursuant
23 to subparagraph (A) shall remain valid and re-
24 deemable by the passenger indefinitely.

25 (3) RETROACTIVE REFUNDS.—In the case of a
26 passenger who—

1 (A) received an alternative form of com-
2 pensation prior to the date of enactment of this
3 Act for a covered flight or ticket for a covered
4 flight canceled by the covered carrier or by the
5 passenger; and

6 (B) has not used such alternative com-
7 pensation;

8 such passenger may request a cash refund to replace
9 the alternative compensation and the covered carrier
10 or ticket agent shall promptly comply with such re-
11 quest.

12 (4) REIMBURSEMENT TO TICKET AGENT.—A
13 ticket agent who provides a cash refund to a pas-
14 senger under this section, including a retroactive re-
15 fund under paragraph (3), shall be entitled to
16 prompt reimbursement from any covered carrier for
17 the portion of the ticket price paid to that carrier.

18 (b) FUNDING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
20 covered carrier or ticket agent may use amounts ap-
21 propriated or otherwise made available to the com-
22 mercial airline industry in any appropriations en-
23 acted on or after March 1, 2020, in response to
24 COVID–19 to pay for the cash refunds under sub-

1 section (a), including retroactive refunds under para-
2 graph (3) of such subsection.

3 (2) LIMITATION.—A covered carrier may not
4 use amounts appropriated under section 4112 of the
5 Coronavirus Economic Stabilization Act of 2020
6 (title IV of division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,
7 and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136))
8 to pay for the cash refunds under subsection (a), in-
9 cluding retroactive refunds under paragraph (3) of
10 such subsection.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” has
13 the meaning given that term in section 40102 of
14 title 49, United States Code.

15 (2) COVERED CARRIER.—The term “covered
16 carrier” means—

17 (A) any passenger air carrier that had an
18 operating revenue in 2018 that exceeded
19 \$1,500,000,000 according to the Bureau of
20 Transportation Statistics; or

21 (B) any passenger foreign air carrier oper-
22 ating a flight to or from the United States.

23 (3) COVERED FLIGHT.—The term “covered
24 flight” means a flight of a covered carrier that is
25 scheduled to depart from, or arrive at, an airport lo-

1 cated in the United States during the COVID–19
2 emergency period.

3 (4) COVID–19 EMERGENCY PERIOD.—The
4 term “COVID–19 emergency period” means the pe-
5 riod—

6 (A) beginning on March 1, 2020; and

7 (B) ending on the date that is 180 days
8 after the later of the expiration of—

9 (i) the public health emergency de-
10 clared by the Secretary of Health and
11 Human Services under section 319 of the
12 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
13 247d) with respect to COVID–19; or

14 (ii) the national emergency declared
15 by the President under the National Emer-
16 gencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with
17 respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019
18 (COVID–19).

19 (5) FOREIGN AIR CARRIER.—The term “foreign
20 air carrier” has the meaning given that term in sec-
21 tion 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

22 (6) TICKET AGENT.—The term “ticket agent”
23 has the meaning given that term in section 40102
24 of title 49, United States Code.

1 (7) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
2 States” has the meaning given that term in section
3 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

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