

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 542

To protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate,
notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAPO,
Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport
knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local
and State prohibitions.

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 “Interstate Transport
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF KNIVES.**

7 (a) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “trans-
8 port”—

1 (1) includes staying in temporary lodging over-
2 night, common carrier misrouting or delays, stops
3 for food, fuel, vehicle maintenance, emergencies, or
4 medical treatment, and any other activity related to
5 the journey of a person; and

6 (2) does not include transport of a knife with
7 the intent to commit an offense punishable by im-
8 prisonment for a term exceeding 1 year involving the
9 use or threatened use of force against another per-
10 son, or with knowledge, or reasonable cause to be-
11 lieve, that such an offense is to be committed in the
12 course of, or arising from, the journey.

13 (b) TRANSPORT OF KNIVES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a
16 State or any political subdivision thereof, a person
17 who is not otherwise prohibited by any Federal law
18 from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving
19 a knife shall be entitled to transport a knife for any
20 lawful purpose from any place where the person may
21 lawfully possess, carry, or transport the knife to any
22 other place where the person may lawfully possess,
23 carry, or transport the knife if—

24 (A) in the case of transport by motor vehi-
25 cle, the knife—

1 (i) is not directly accessible from the
 2 passenger compartment of the motor vehi-
 3 cle; or

4 (ii) in the case of a motor vehicle
 5 without a compartment separate from the
 6 passenger compartment, is contained in a
 7 locked container other than the glove com-
 8 partment or console; and

9 (B) in the case of transport by means
 10 other than a motor vehicle, including any trans-
 11 port over land or on or through water, the knife
 12 is contained in a locked container.

13 (2) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not
 14 apply to the transport of a knife or tool in the cabin
 15 of a passenger aircraft subject to the rules and regu-
 16 lations of the Transportation Security Administra-
 17 tion.

18 (c) EMERGENCY KNIVES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—A person—

20 (A) may carry in the passenger compart-
 21 ment of a mode of transportation a knife or
 22 tool—

23 (i) the blades of which consist only of
 24 a blunt tipped safety blade, a guarded
 25 blade, or both; and

1 (ii) that is specifically designed for en-
2 abling escape in an emergency by cutting
3 safety belts; and

4 (B) shall not be required to secure a knife
5 or tool described in subparagraph (A) in a
6 locked container.

7 (2) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not
8 apply to the transport of a knife or tool in the cabin
9 of a passenger aircraft subject to the rules and regu-
10 lations of the Transportation Security Administra-
11 tion.

12 (d) NO ARREST.—A person who is transporting a
13 knife in compliance with this section may not be arrested
14 for violation of any law, rule, or regulation of a State or
15 political subdivision of a State related to the possession,
16 transport, or carrying of a knife, unless there is probable
17 cause to believe that the person is not in compliance with
18 subsection (b).

19 (e) COSTS.—If a person who asserts this section as
20 a claim or defense in a civil or criminal action or pro-
21 ceeding is a prevailing party on the claim or defense, the
22 court shall award costs and reasonable attorney's fees in-
23 curred by the person.

24 (f) EXPUNGEMENT.—If a person who asserts this
25 section as a claim or defense in a criminal proceeding is

1 a prevailing party on the claim or defense, the court shall
2 enter an order that directs that there be expunged from
3 all official records all references to—

4 (1) the arrest of the person for the offense as
5 to which the claim or defense was asserted;

6 (2) the institution of any criminal proceedings
7 against the person relating to such offense; and

8 (3) the results of the proceedings, if any.

9 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
10 tion shall be construed to limit any right to possess, carry,
11 or transport a knife under applicable State law.

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