

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 596

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations establishing minimum standards for space for passengers on passenger aircraft, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations establishing minimum standards for space for passengers on passenger aircraft, 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 “Seat Egress in Air
5 Travel Act of 2017” or the “SEAT Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO SPACE FOR PAS-**
2 **SENGERS ON AIRCRAFT.**

3 (a) AIR CARRIER DEFINED.—In this section, the
4 term “air carrier” means an air carrier (as defined in sec-
5 tion 40102 of title 49, United States Code) that trans-
6 ports passengers by aircraft as a common carrier for com-
7 pensation.

8 (b) REGULATIONS RELATING TO SPACE FOR PAS-
9 SENGERS ON AIRCRAFT.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator
11 shall prescribe regulations—

12 (1) establishing minimum standards for space
13 for passengers on passenger aircraft, including the
14 size, width, and pitch of seats, the amount of leg
15 room, and the width of aisles on such aircraft for
16 the safety and health of passengers; and

17 (2) requiring each air carrier to prominently
18 display on the website of the air carrier the amount
19 of space available for each passenger on passenger
20 aircraft operated by the air carrier, including the
21 size, width, and pitch of seats, the amount of leg
22 room, and the width of aisles on such aircraft.

23 (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In prescribing the regulations
24 required under subsection (b), the Administrator shall
25 consult with the Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-
26 tration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

- 1 passenger advocacy organizations, physicians, and ergo-
- 2 nomic engineers.

