

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3334

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations with respect to ensuring families are able to sit together on flights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations with respect to ensuring families are able to sit together on flights, 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 “Families Flying To-
5 gether Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Airlines need to prioritize seating families
9 traveling with small children together.

1 (2) The Department of Transportation con-
2 tinues to receive “unsatisfactory seat assignment”
3 complaints from parents whose seat assignments
4 were separate from their small children.

5 **SEC. 3. SEATING FAMILIES TOGETHER ON FLIGHTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
8 tation shall issue regulations directing each air carrier
9 to—

10 (1) establish a policy to ensure, to the extent
11 practicable, that a family that purchases tickets for
12 a flight with that air carrier is seated together dur-
13 ing that flight; and

14 (2) make the policy described in paragraph (1)
15 available to the public on an appropriate Internet
16 Web site of the air carrier.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
18 nitions apply:

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

22 (2) FAMILY.—The term “family” means a
23 grouping of individuals that includes, at a min-
24 imum—

1 (A) a child who is 12 years of age or
2 younger; and

3 (B) an individual who is—

4 (i) 18 years of age or older; and

5 (ii) responsible for accompanying that
6 child, including a parent or legal guardian
7 of that child.

8 **SEC. 4. FAMILIES TRAVELING TOGETHER.**

9 Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, is
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(d) FAMILIES TRAVELING TOGETHER.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unfair or de-
13 ceptive practice under subsection (a) for any ticket
14 agent, air carrier, foreign air carrier, or other person
15 offering to sell tickets for air transportation to fail
16 to disclose, whether verbally in oral communication
17 or in writing in written or electronic communication,
18 prior to an individual’s purchase of more than one
19 ticket for a covered flight, the notification in para-
20 graph (2), if such purchase includes a ticket for a
21 minor.

22 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—The notification required
23 under paragraph (1) shall include the following
24 statement: ‘It is not possible to assign 2 or more
25 seats together on at least 1 of the flights you have

1 selected. Please be advised that you may not be able
2 to sit next to other members of your travel party,
3 even if you are traveling with a minor.’.

4 “(3) COVERED FLIGHT.—For purposes of this
5 section, a ‘covered flight’ is a flight of an air carrier
6 or foreign air carrier in air transportation or foreign
7 air transportation as to which—

8 “(A) a purchaser of a ticket may specify
9 an advance seat assignment, with or without
10 the assessment of any charge or fee; and

11 “(B) 2 or more laterally adjacent seats are
12 not available on the flight for advance assign-
13 ment.”.

○