

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4019

To protect airline crew members, security screening personnel, and passengers by banning abusive passengers from commercial aircraft flights, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2022

Mr. REED introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To protect airline crew members, security screening personnel, and passengers by banning abusive passengers from commercial aircraft 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 “Protection from Abu-
5 sive Passengers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this Act, the term “abusive passenger” means any
8 individual who, on or after the date of the enactment of
9 this Act, engages in behavior that results in—

1 (1) the assessment of a civil penalty for—

2 (A) engaging in conduct prohibited under
3 section 46318 of title 49, United States Code;
4 or

5 (B) tampering with, interfering with, com-
6 promising, modifying, or attempting to cir-
7 cumvent any security system, measure, or pro-
8 cedure related to civil aviation security in viola-
9 tion of section 1540.105(a)(1) of title 49, Code
10 of Federal Regulations, if such violation is com-
11 mitted on an aircraft in flight (as defined in
12 section 46501(1) of title 49, United States
13 Code);

14 (2) a conviction for a violation of section 46503
15 or 46504 of title 49, United States Code; or

16 (3) a conviction for any other Federal offense
17 involving assaults, threats, or intimidation against a
18 crewmember on an aircraft in flight (as defined in
19 section 46501(1) of title 49, United States Code).

20 **SEC. 3. REFERRALS.**

21 The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
22 tration or the Attorney General shall provide the identity
23 (including the full name, full date of birth, and gender)
24 of all abusive passengers to the Administrator of the
25 Transportation Security Administration.

1 **SEC. 4. BANNED FLIERS.**

2 (a) LIST.—The Administrator of the Transportation
3 Security Administration shall maintain a list of abusive
4 passengers.

5 (b) EFFECT OF INCLUSION ON LIST.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual included on
7 the list maintained pursuant to subsection (a) shall
8 be prohibited from boarding any commercial aircraft
9 flight until such individual is removed from such list
10 in accordance with the procedures established by the
11 Administrator pursuant to section 5.

12 (2) OTHER LISTS.—The placement of an indi-
13 vidual on the list maintained pursuant to subsection
14 (a) shall not preclude the placement of such indi-
15 vidual on other lists maintained by the Federal Gov-
16 ernment and used by the Administrator of the
17 Transportation Security Administration pursuant to
18 sections 114(h) and 44903(j)(2)(C) of title 49,
19 United States Code, to prohibit such individual from
20 boarding a flight or to take other appropriate action
21 with respect to such individual if the Administrator
22 determines that such individual—

23 (A) poses a risk to the transportation sys-
24 tem or national security;

25 (B) poses a risk of air piracy or terrorism;

1 (C) poses a threat to airline or passenger
2 safety; or

3 (D) poses a threat to civil aviation or na-
4 tional security.

5 **SEC. 5. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ABU-**
6 **SIVE PASSENGERS.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation
9 Security Administration shall develop, and post on a pub-
10 licly available website of the Transportation Security Ad-
11 ministration, policies and procedures for handling individ-
12 uals included on the list maintained pursuant to section
13 4(a), including—

14 (1) the process for receiving and handling refer-
15 rals received pursuant to section 3;

16 (2) the method by which the list of banned fli-
17 ers required under section 4(a) will be maintained;

18 (3) specific guidelines and considerations for re-
19 moving an individual from such list based on the
20 gravity of each offense described in section 2;

21 (4) the procedures for the expeditious removal
22 of the names of individuals who were erroneously in-
23 cluded on such list;

24 (5) the circumstances under which certain indi-
25 viduals rightfully included on such list may petition

1 to be removed from such list, including the proce-
2 dures for appealing a denial of such petition; and

3 (6) the process for providing to any individual
4 who is the subject of a referral under section 3—

5 (A) written notification, not later than 5
6 days after receiving such referral, including an
7 explanation of the procedures and cir-
8 cumstances referred to in paragraphs (4) and
9 (5); and

10 (B) an opportunity to seek relief under
11 paragraph (4) during the 5-day period begin-
12 ning on the date on which the individual re-
13 ceived the notification referred to in subpara-
14 graph (A) to avoid being erroneously included
15 on the list of abusive passengers referred to in
16 section 4(a).

17 **SEC. 6. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

18 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
19 of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Secu-
20 rity Administration shall brief the Committee on Com-
21 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
22 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives regarding the policies and procedures devel-
24 oped pursuant to section 5.

1 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT.**

2 The Administrator of the Transportation Security
3 Administration shall submit an annual report to the Com-
4 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
5 Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the
6 House of Representatives that contains nonpersonally
7 identifiable information regarding the composition of the
8 list required under section 4(a), including—

9 (1) the number of individuals included on such
10 list;

11 (2) the age and sex of the individuals included
12 on such list;

13 (3) the underlying offense or offenses of the in-
14 dividuals included on such list;

15 (4) the period of time each individual has been
16 included on such list;

17 (5) the number of individuals rightfully in-
18 cluded on such list who have petitioned for removal
19 and the status of such petitions;

20 (6) the number of individuals erroneously in-
21 cluded on such list and the time required to remove
22 such individuals from such list; and

23 (7) the number of individuals erroneously in-
24 cluded on such list who have been prevented from
25 traveling.

1 **SEC. 8. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.**

2 Not less frequently than once every 3 years, the In-
3 spector General of the Department of Homeland Security
4 shall review and report to the Committee on Commerce,
5 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
6 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
7 tives regarding the administration and maintenance of the
8 list required under sections 4 and 5, including an assess-
9 ment of any disparities based on race or ethnicity in the
10 treatment of petitions for removal.

11 **SEC. 9. INELIGIBILITY FOR TRUSTED TRAVELER PRO-**
12 **GRAMS.**

13 Except under policies and procedures established by
14 the Secretary of Homeland Security, all abusive pas-
15 sengers shall be permanently ineligible to participate in—

16 (1) the Transportation Security Administra-
17 tion's PreCheck program; or

18 (2) U.S. Customs and Border Protection's
19 Global Entry program.

20 **SEC. 10. LIMITATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The inclusion of a person's name
22 on a list described in section 4(a) may not be used as the
23 basis for denying any right or privilege under Federal law
24 except for the rights and privileges described in sections
25 4(b), 5, and 9.

1 (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion may be construed to limit the dissemination, or bar
3 the consideration, of the facts and circumstances that
4 prompt placement of a person on the list described in sec-
5 tion 4(a).

6 **SEC. 11. PRIVACY.**

7 Personally identifiable information used to create the
8 list required under section 4(a)—

9 (1) shall be exempt from disclosure under sec-
10 tion 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

11 (2) shall not be made available by any Federal,
12 State, Tribal, or local authority pursuant to any
13 Federal, State, Tribal, or local law requiring public
14 disclosure of information or records.

15 **SEC. 12. SAVINGS PROVISION.**

16 Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the
17 authority of the Transportation Security Administration
18 or of any other Federal agency to undertake measures to
19 protect passengers, flight crew members, or security offi-
20 cers under any other provision of law.

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