

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3681

To require a joint task force on the operation of air travel during and after the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2020

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

A BILL

To require a joint task force on the operation of air travel during and after the COVID–19 pandemic, 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 “Restoring Safety in
5 the Skies Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. JOINT TASK FORCE ON THE OPERATION OF AIR**
7 **TRAVEL.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and

1 the Secretary of Transportation shall form a Joint Task
2 Force on the Operation of Air Travel during and after
3 the COVID–19 pandemic (in this section referred to as
4 the “Joint Task Force”).

5 (b) DUTIES.—The Joint Task Force shall develop
6 plans, guidelines, and recommended requirements to ad-
7 dress the logistical, health, safety, and security issues re-
8 lating to the continued operation of air travel during the
9 COVID–19 pandemic, as well as the resumption of full
10 operations at airports and increased passenger air travel
11 after the COVID–19 pandemic ends. The Joint Task
12 Force shall develop, at a minimum, plans, guidelines, and
13 recommended requirements for—

14 (1) the immediate period after the end of the
15 COVID–19 pandemic;

16 (2) ongoing periods after the end of the
17 COVID–19 pandemic;

18 (3) reconfiguring and reforming airport and
19 travel operations, including passenger queuing and
20 security screening, as a result of current and antici-
21 pated permanent changes to passenger air travel
22 during and after the COVID–19 pandemic, as well
23 as the anticipated seasonal recurrence of the
24 coronavirus;

1 (4) reconfiguring and reforming the airplane
2 boarding and deplaning processes, as well as bag-
3 gage handling procedures, as a result of current and
4 anticipated permanent changes to passenger air
5 travel during and after the COVID–19 pandemic, as
6 well as the anticipated seasonal recurrence of the
7 coronavirus;

8 (5) mitigating the public health and economic
9 impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic and the antici-
10 pated seasonal recurrence of the coronavirus on air-
11 ports and passenger air travel, including, but not
12 limited to, the provision of personal protective equip-
13 ment to aviation employees, the need for travelers to
14 wear face masks, and the accommodation of social
15 distancing;

16 (6) addressing the privacy and civil liberty con-
17 cerns created by passenger health screenings, con-
18 tact-tracing, or any other process for monitoring the
19 health of individuals engaged in air travel; and

20 (7) operating procedures to manage future an-
21 ticipated public health crises affecting air travel.

22 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Joint Task Force shall in-
23 clude, at a minimum, representatives of the following:

24 (1) The Department of Transportation.

25 (2) The Department of Homeland Security.

1 (3) The Department of Health and Human
2 Services.

3 (4) The Federal Aviation Administration.

4 (5) The Transportation Security Administra-
5 tion.

6 (6) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

7 (7) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
8 vention.

9 (8) Airport operators.

10 (9) Airlines.

11 (10) Aircraft manufacturers.

12 (11) Labor organizations representing aviation
13 industry workers, including pilots, flight attendants,
14 maintenance, and safety inspectors.

15 (12) Public health experts.

16 (13) Consumers and passenger rights organiza-
17 tions.

18 (14) Privacy and civil liberty organizations.

19 (15) Manufacturers of passenger screening
20 technologies.

21 (d) REPORTS.—

22 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT WITH EMERGENCY
23 RECOMMENDATIONS.—As soon as practicable after
24 the establishment of the Joint Task Force, the Joint
25 Task Force shall submit a preliminary report to

1 Congress that contains the plans, guidelines, and
2 recommended requirements necessary to ensure safe
3 air travel before the COVID–19 pandemic ends and
4 during the immediate period after the end of such
5 pandemic. The Joint Task Force may submit the
6 preliminary report required under this paragraph in
7 installments and may include interim versions of the
8 Joint Task Force’s plans, guidelines, and rec-
9 ommended requirements.

10 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 months
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint
12 Task Force shall submit a final report to Congress
13 that contains all of the plans, guidelines, and rec-
14 ommended requirements developed by the Joint
15 Task Force, including any revised or finalized plans,
16 guidelines, or recommended requirements that were
17 included in an interim version in the preliminary re-
18 port (or an installment of such report) submitted to
19 Congress as required under paragraph (1).

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