

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5235

To require the Federal Aviation Administration to establish evacuation standards for transport category airplanes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Federal Aviation Administration to establish evacuation standards for transport category airplanes.

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 “Emergency Vacating
5 of Aircraft Cabin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EVACUATION STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORT CAT-**
7 **EGORY AIRPLANES.**

8 (a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after
9 the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator
10 of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue a final

1 rule establishing evacuation standards for transport cat-
2 egory airplanes, as described in part 25 of title 14, Code
3 of Federal Regulations.

4 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing the final rule
6 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall con-
7 sider factors that include—

8 (A) the ability of passengers of different
9 ages (including infants, children, and senior
10 citizens) to safely and efficiently evacuate a
11 transport category airplane;

12 (B) the ability of passengers of different
13 heights and weights to safely and efficiently
14 evacuate a transport category airplane;

15 (C) the ability of passengers with disabil-
16 ities to safely and efficiently evacuate a trans-
17 port category airplane;

18 (D) the ability of passengers who cannot
19 speak, have difficulty speaking, use synthetic
20 speech, or are non-vocal or non-verbal to safely
21 and efficiently evacuate a transport category
22 airplane;

23 (E) the ability of passengers who do not
24 speak English to safely and efficiently evacuate
25 a transport category airplane;

1 (F) the impact of the presence of carry-on
2 luggage or personal items (such as a purse,
3 briefcase, laptop, or backpack) on the ability of
4 passengers to safely and efficiently evacuate a
5 transport category airplane;

6 (G) the impact of seat size and seat pitch
7 on the ability of passengers to safely and effi-
8 ciently evacuate a transport category airplane;

9 (H) the impact of seats and other obstacles
10 in the pathway to the exit opening from the
11 nearest aisle on the ability of passengers to
12 safely and efficiently evacuate a transport cat-
13 egory airplane;

14 (I) with respect to aircraft with parallel
15 longitudinal aisles, the impact of seat pods or
16 other seating configurations that block access
17 between such aisles within a cabin on the ability
18 of passengers to safely and efficiently evacuate
19 a transport category airplane;

20 (J) the impact of passenger load (the num-
21 ber of passengers relative to the number of
22 seats on board) on the ability of passengers to
23 safely and efficiently evacuate a transport cat-
24 egory airplane;

1 (K) the impact of service animals and the
2 ability to safely and efficiently evacuate such
3 animals from a transport category airplane; and

4 (L) any other factor determined appro-
5 priate by the Administrator.

6 (2) PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES DE-
7 FINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
8 “passengers with disabilities”—

9 (A) means any qualified individual with a
10 disability, as defined in section 382.3 of title
11 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

12 (B) includes any passengers—

13 (i) with a physical impairment, such
14 as passengers who are blind, deaf, or re-
15 quire a wheelchair, walker, cane, brace,
16 prosthetic, or other mobility device;

17 (ii) whose physical impairment re-
18 quires the use of a medical device to assist
19 with mobility, such as a portable oxygen
20 concentrator; or

21 (iii) with a developmental or mental
22 impairment.

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