

S 1673

Cruise Passenger Protection Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jun 24, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jun 24, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1673>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • State: CT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 24, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3142	Related bill	Jul 22, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Cruise Passenger Protection Act - Amends federal shipping law to direct the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop standards for passenger vessel owners to provide passengers with a summary of key terms of passage contracts before they are binding.

Requires such standards to include recommendations that ensure that the summary is conspicuous and unambiguous.

Requires vessel owners, no later than 180 days after the standards are developed, to:

- provide each passenger vessel with a summary meeting those standards,
- include a link to each website the owner maintains for passengers to purchase or book passage on a passenger vessel, and
- include the summary in promotional literature or advertising.

Applies this Act to passenger vessels that:

- carry at least 250 passengers,
- have sleeping facilities for each passenger,
- are on a voyage that embarks or disembarks passengers in the United States,
- are not engaged in coastwise trade, and
- are not federal- or state-owned.

Directs DOT to establish a toll-free hotline and website for passenger complaints.

Prescribes both civil and criminal penalties for persons who violate the requirements of this Act.

Directs DOT to determine whether any of the enumerated rights in the international cruise line passenger bill of rights (adopted by the members of the Cruise Lines International Association) is enforceable under federal law.

Directs DOT to establish an advisory committee for passenger vessel consumer protection.

Revises passenger vessel security and safety requirements concerning:

- log book entries and reporting of deaths, missing individuals, thefts, and other crimes; and
- placement, access to records, and notice of video surveillance equipment to monitor crime.

Requires vessel owners to ensure that a vessel is staffed at all times with the appropriate number of sea marshals, as well as appropriate medical staff to treat passengers on board.

Directs DOT to:

- designate a director of victim support services to act as primary point of contact within the federal government for vessel passengers who are victims of crime,
- establish a 24-hour toll-free telephone number for crime victims to obtain support services, and
- develop a summary of rights for victims of crime.

Directs DOT to maintain on a website a statistical compilation of reported incidents of missing persons, crimes, and other information for vessel passengers.

Directs DOT, in coordination with the Coast Guard, the Department of Justice, and heads of other relevant federal agencies, to study the feasibility of having an individual on board each passenger vessel to provide victim support and related safety and security services.

Requires the Maritime Administration (which, currently, is merely authorized) to certify organizations in the United States and abroad that offer the curriculum for training and certification of passenger vessel security personnel, crewmembers, and law enforcement officials on the appropriate methods for prevention, detection, evidence preservation, and reporting of crimes in international waters.

Revises vessel design, equipment, construction, and retrofitting requirements.

Requires the peep hole or other means of visual identification in the entry door of a passenger stateroom or crew cabin to provide an unobstructed view of the area outside the stateroom or crew cabin.

Authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to withhold or revoke the clearance of, and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to deny entry into the United States to, any vessel owner that:

- commits an act or omission for which a penalty is imposed under this Act, or
- fails to pay the penalty.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 24, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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