

## S 4293

### MIDDLE Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Jul 23, 2020

**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. (Jul 23, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4293>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 23, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7741	Related bill	Jul 24, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.

### Summary (as of Jul 23, 2020)

#### Maintaining Important Distance During Lengthy Epidemics Act of 2020 or the MIDDLE Act of 2020

This bill prohibits air carriers, during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) public health emergency, from (1) permitting adjacent seats to another occupied seat to be filled on a passenger aircraft, (2) passing along the cost of any seat switch undertaken by such air carriers in order to comply with the prohibitions, and (3) permitting a passenger or crewmember to board a passenger aircraft if the passenger or crewmember is not wearing a mask.

The Federal Aviation Administration must issue guidance for appropriate exceptions to the prohibitions based on federal public health guidance.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 23, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 23, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.