

S 545

Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Feb 28, 2023

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. (Feb 28, 2023)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/545

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

Party: Democratic • State: WI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 28, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Feb 28, 2023
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 28, 2023
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 28, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 28, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 8, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 21, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 22, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 18, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 18, 2024
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 10, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 28, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1267	Identical bill	Mar 1, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.

## **Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2023**

This bill expands protections for airline passengers with disabilities and requires air carriers to meet certain minimum accessibility standards.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) must prescribe regulations setting minimum accessibility standards for new and existing aircraft, airport facilities, websites, and kiosks. The accessibility standards must address topics including

- boarding and deplaning equipment, including ensuring individuals can board and deplane an aircraft from their personal assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs);
- seating accommodations;
- lavatories;
- visually accessible announcements; and
- proper stowage of assistive devices in the cargo hold to prevent damage.

Existing aircraft have five years from the effective date of the regulations to comply with the standards. DOT must assess civil penalties against an air carrier for violations of these provisions and refer patterns of discrimination to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

DOT must also ensure that passengers with disabilities may (1) file a complaint with the agency in response to disability-related discrimination, and (2) receive assistance through a toll-free hotline or other electronic method.

Further, the bill authorizes DOJ and aggrieved passengers to bring civil actions for discrimination against an air carrier.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 28, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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