

# Civil Aviation (Accessibility) Bill

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**B I L L**

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Make provision about the accessibility of air travel for people with disabilities; to establish requirements about parking at airports for people with disabilities; to require airports and airlines to report steps taken to improve accessibility; to require a named person to be responsible for air passengers with disabilities; to make provision about the design and adaptation of aircraft to meet the needs of passengers with disabilities; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Civil Aviation (Accessibility) Bill**

- (1) Airport operators and airlines have a duty to make reasonable adjustments so that the services they provide are as accessible for disabled persons as they are for non-disabled persons.
- (2) “Reasonable adjustments” include but are not limited to— 5
  - (a) providing support to access or use services;
  - (b) training staff or contractors in understanding physical and hidden disabilities;
  - (c) changing physical infrastructure or equipment so that it can be used by disabled persons; 10
  - (d) communicating with other airport operators and airlines about the needs of disabled passengers;
  - (e) providing information about services and the adjustments.
- (3) Each airport operator and airline must send an annual report to the Civil Aviation Authority (“CAA”). 15
- (4) An annual report must include—
  - (a) a statement of whether and why the airport operator or airline believes it has met the duty in subsection (1),
  - (b) what steps they have taken in pursuance of that duty, and

- (c) the complaints and compensation procedure for disabled persons, including the compensation payable for damage to wheelchairs and other medical or mobility equipment.
- (5) An annual report of an airline must include details of how they provide sufficient wheelchair storage space in the cabins of the aircraft they use to provide air transport services. 5
- (6) The CAA may, in such form as it considers appropriate, prescribe—
- (a) dates by which annual reports must be submitted,
  - (b) requirements relating to the publication of annual reports, and
  - (c) further information to be provided in annual reports. 10
- (7) Before prescribing further information under subsection (6)(c) the CAA must consult representatives of—
- (a) disabled persons,
  - (b) airport operators, and
  - (c) airlines. 15
- 2 Provision of disabled spaces at airport car parks**
- (1) Airport operators have a duty to provide a sufficient number of parking spaces in airport car parks for disabled persons who wish to use services at the airport.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations set a minimum proportion of spaces in an airport car park that must be reserved for holders of a disabled parking badge. 20
- (3) Those regulations may—
- (a) specify the method used to calculate the proportion in subsection (2); and
  - (b) apply only to airports of certain sizes by numbers of passengers, runways or such other metric as the Secretary of State considers appropriate. 25
- (4) Before making regulations under this section the Secretary of State must consult representatives of—
- (a) the CAA,
  - (b) disabled persons,
  - (c) airport operators, and
  - (d) airlines. 30
- 3 Named person**
- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations require airport operators and airlines to nominate a named person responsible for the experience of disabled persons on each flight arriving into or departing from an airport. 35
- (2) The named person must work for either the airport operator or the airline.
- (3) The named person shall be responsible for coordinating assistance for disabled passengers between airports and airlines. 40
- (4) Before making regulations under this section the Secretary of State must consult representatives of—
- (a) the CAA,

- (b) disabled persons,
- (c) airport operators, and
- (d) airlines.

#### **4 Working group on aircraft design**

- (1) *The Secretary of State may by regulations establish a working group to consider the design and adaptation of aircraft to meet the needs of disabled persons.* 5
- (2) Those regulations may determine the composition of the group, including any chairs or deputy chairs.
- (3) The working group shall (subject to subsection (5)) meet at least once a year.
- (4) The working group shall produce a report for the Secretary of State on their findings at least once a year, which shall be laid before Parliament. 10
- (5) The Secretary of State may dissolve the group by regulations.

#### **5 Interpretation**

In this Act—

- “airport” has the same meaning as in section 66 of the Civil Aviation Act 2012; 15
- “airport car park” means a qualifying car park under section 67 of the Civil Aviation Act 2012;
- “airport operator” means a person who provides airport operation services under section 68 of the Civil Aviation Act 2012; 20
- “airline” means a person who provides air transport services under section 69 of the Civil Aviation Act 2012;
- “disabled parking badge” means a badge issued under section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

#### **6 Regulations** 25

- (1) A power to make regulations under this Act—
  - (a) is exercisable by statutory instrument;
  - (b) includes power to make different provision for different purposes;
  - (c) includes power to make supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory and saving provision. 30
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Act (other than section 7) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

#### **7 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 35
- (2) This Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations appoint.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Civil Aviation (Accessibility) Act 2018.

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To make provision about the accessibility of air travel for people with disabilities; to establish requirements about parking at airports for people with disabilities; to require airports and airlines to report steps taken to improve accessibility; to require a named person to be responsible for air passengers with disabilities; to make provision about the design and adaptation of aircraft to meet the needs of passengers with disabilities; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Helen Whately,  
Heidi Allen, Dr Lisa Cameron,  
Alex Chalk, John McNally,  
Alex Cunningham, Michael Fabricant,  
Kate Green, Lady Hermon,  
Jeremy Lefroy, Mrs Maria Miller  
and Dr Sarah Wollaston.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 24th July 2018.*

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