

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 221

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

AIRCRAFT/AVIATION: Memorializes the United States Congress to encourage the Federal Aviation Administration to protect the rights of airline passengers against misleading baggage and other ancillary fees

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel
3 the Federal Aviation Administration to protect the rights of consumers by setting
4 consistent standards across airlines for passenger baggage and other ancillary fees.

5 WHEREAS, the United States Congress largely determines the degree to which
6 certain rights of airline passengers are codified in law or developed through regulatory
7 rulemaking; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2008, the first major United States carrier imposed a fee for checked
9 baggage; and

10 WHEREAS, all major carriers now charge an additional fee for checked baggage
11 with the exception of Southwest airlines subject to weight requirements; and

12 WHEREAS, airlines have been under financial pressure to offset the cost of rising
13 fuel prices, and many airlines now charge excess baggage fees for checking one or more
14 pieces of luggage, with some even charging for carry-ons; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2018, several airlines raised the fee for the first checked bag from
16 twenty-five to thirty dollars, which amounts to a twenty percent increase; and

17 WHEREAS, airlines' bag and reservation fee collections have increased every year
18 for more than a decade; and

1 WHEREAS, airlines' bag fees have exceeded one billion every quarter for more than
2 three years with the exception of the second through fourth quarters in 2020 due to the
3 pandemic; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported that airlines
5 collectively generated eight billion six hundred million in baggage and other ancillary fees;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics reported that airlines
8 collectively generated two billion eight million in reservation change fees; and

9 WHEREAS, many airline passengers have expressed concerns over baggage policies
10 that are inconsistent across airlines; and

11 WHEREAS, airline baggage fees have become progressively more confusing,
12 complicated, and expensive; and

13 WHEREAS, although baggage fees are displayed on the airlines' websites,
14 consumers report that additional hidden fees are not mentioned; and

15 WHEREAS, certain airlines charge up to forty-five dollars for carry-on bags and
16 have additional complications; and

17 WHEREAS, airline baggage fees can vary depending on when and where passengers
18 add bags; and

19 WHEREAS, one of the top ten customer complaints about the airline industry is
20 hidden charges and cost; and

21 WHEREAS, the aforementioned concerns of airline passengers are issues of
22 consumer protection for which the United State Congress has the constitutional power to
23 address and determine fair and reasonable solutions through codified law and regulatory
24 rulemaking.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such
27 actions as are necessary to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to set consistent
28 standards across airlines for baggage and other ancillary fees that are reasonable and
29 proportional to the cost of services to eliminate airlines' potential for price gouging.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United State Congress should consider
2 enacting legislation that addresses the issues of transparency by mandating that airlines
3 disclose hidden fees so that consumers can obtain an all inclusive airfare price.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United State Congress should also consider
5 legislation that prohibits airlines from charging fees on carry-on baggage which meets
6 existing restrictions on the weight, size, and number of bags.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United State Congress should consider
8 directing the appropriate federal agency to conduct an audit on airlines' policies relative to
9 baggage and other ancillary fees.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States
12 Congress and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 221 Original

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Marcelle

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to set consistent standards across airlines for baggage and other ancillary fees to ensure reasonableness and proportionality relative to the cost associated with these services.