

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit cell phone voice communications during passenger flights.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To prohibit cell phone voice communications during  
passenger flights.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Flight  
5 Courtesy Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CELL PHONE VOICE COMMUNICA-**  
7 **TIONS DURING PASSENGER FLIGHTS.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417 of  
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
10 end the following:

1 **“§ 41725. Prohibition on certain cell phone voice com-**  
2 **munications**

3 “(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Transpor-  
4 tation shall issue regulations—

5 “(1) to prohibit an individual on an aircraft  
6 from engaging in voice communications using a mo-  
7 bile communications device during a flight of that  
8 aircraft in scheduled passenger interstate air trans-  
9 portation or intrastate air transportation; and

10 “(2) that exempt from the prohibition described  
11 in paragraph (1)—

12 “(A) any member of the flight crew on  
13 duty on an aircraft; and

14 “(B) any Federal law enforcement officer  
15 acting in an official capacity.

16 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) FLIGHT.—The term ‘flight’ means, with  
18 respect to an aircraft, the period beginning when the  
19 aircraft takes off and ending when the aircraft  
20 lands.

21 “(2) MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘mobile  
23 communications device’ means any portable  
24 wireless telecommunications equipment utilized  
25 for the transmission or reception of voice data.

1                   “(B) LIMITATION.—The term ‘mobile com-  
2                   munications device’ does not include a phone in-  
3                   stalled on an aircraft.”.

4           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
5 for chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 41724  
7 the following new item:

“41725. Prohibition on certain cell phone voice communications.”.