HLS 15RS-101 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

AIRCRAFT/AVIATION: Memorializes Congress to take necessary action to regulate baggage fees and processes for consumers

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate
3	airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of
4	passenger luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed
5	luggage.
6	WHEREAS, deregulation of the airline industry in the United States began more than
7	three decades ago in 1978; and
8	WHEREAS, a consequence of deregulation was the elimination of federal control
9	over many airline business practices, including pricing and domestic route selection; and
10	WHEREAS, though deregulation limits federal control of airline business practices
11	generally, the federal government continues to legislate and enforce certain consumer
12	protections for airline passengers; and
13	WHEREAS, the United States Congress largely determines the degree to which
14	certain rights of airline passengers are codified in law or developed through regulatory
15	rulemaking; and
16	WHEREAS, since deregulation, the primary means of competition amongst airlines
17	has progressively centered on price, not service; and
18	WHEREAS, certain concerns for passengers of airlines include increasing baggage
19	fees and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage; and

1 WHEREAS, the airline industry began to charge passengers a checked baggage fee 2 per bag to curtail rising jet fuel costs and to supplement marginal revenue during times of 3 economic decline; and 4 WHEREAS, as a result of increasing airline baggage fees charged by airlines for 5 checked luggage, passengers are encouraged to increase the contents of carry-on luggage to 6 avoid the extra cost of baggage fees; and 7 WHEREAS, increased carry-on luggage of boarding airline passengers may be 8 correlated to the claims of lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage, because passengers 9 are oftentimes asked to check carry-on luggage at the boarding gate, which may require 10 passengers to wait for such luggage after deboarding an aircraft, or luggage and contents 11 may become damaged during the process of fitting carry-on luggage onto boarded aircrafts; 12 and 13 WHEREAS, although checked luggage may be lost, damaged, or delayed for a 14 variety of reasons, baggage handling systems, airline negligence, and the act of luggage 15 offloading to accommodate extra fuel have also been discussed as reasons for lost, damaged, 16 or delayed passenger luggage; and 17 WHEREAS, the aforementioned concerns of airline passengers are issues of 18 consumer protection for which the United States Congress has the constitutional power to 19 address and determine fair and reasonable solutions through codified law or regulatory 20 rulemaking. 21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 22 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate 23 airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of passenger 24 luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed luggage. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 26 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the 27 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

HLS 15RS-101 ORIGINAL HCR NO. 207

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)]

HCR 207 Original

2015 Regular Session

Henry Burns

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate airline baggage fees and processes for consumers.