

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2061, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2013

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Amendments to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.
- Sec. 4. Pilot program to evaluate consolidated recipient reporting.
- Sec. 5. Classified and protected information.
- Sec. 6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 amendments.
- Sec. 7. Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 amendments.
- Sec. 8. Executive agency accounting and other financial management reports and plans.
- Sec. 9. Limits and transparency for conference and travel spending.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are to—

3 (1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability
4 and Transparency Act of 2006 by disclosing direct
5 Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal
6 contract, loan, and grant spending information to
7 programs of Federal agencies in order to enable tax-
8 payers and policy makers to track Federal spending
9 more effectively;

10 (2) provide consistent, reliable, and searchable
11 Government-wide spending data that is displayed ac-
12 curately for taxpayers and policy makers on
13 USASpending.gov;

14 (3) analyze Federal spending data to
15 proactively prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and im-
16 proper payments;

17 (4) simplify reporting for entities receiving Fed-
18 eral funds by streamlining reporting requirements
19 and reducing compliance costs while improving
20 transparency; and

1 (5) improve the quality of data submitted to
2 USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies ac-
3 countable for the completeness and accuracy of the
4 data submitted.

5 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING AC-**
6 **COUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF**
7 **2006.**

8 Section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
9 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**FULL**
12 **DISCLOSURE OF ENTITIES RECEIVING FED-**
13 **ERAL FUNDING**” and inserting “**DISCLOSURE OF**
14 **FEDERAL FUNDING**”;

15 (2) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
17 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (7), respectively;

18 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
19 following new paragraph (2):

20 “(2) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term ‘Federal
21 agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘Executive
22 agency’ under section 105 of title 5, United States
23 Code.”;

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3), as re-
2 designated by subparagraph (A), the following
3 new paragraphs:

4 “(4) FEDERAL FUNDS.—The term ‘Federal
5 funds’ means any funds that are made available to
6 or expended by a Federal agency.

7 “(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term ‘object class’
8 means the category assigned for purposes of the an-
9 nual budget of the President submitted under sec-
10 tion 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the
11 type of property or services purchased by the Fed-
12 eral Government.

13 “(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program
14 activity’ has the meaning given that term under sec-
15 tion 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.”; and

16 (D) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
17 subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “paragraph (2)(A)(i)” and inserting “para-
20 graph (3)(A)(i)”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
22 “paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting
23 “paragraph (3)(A)(ii)”;

24 (3) in subsection (b)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “the Office of Manage-
2 ment and Budget” and inserting “the Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury” each place it ap-
4 pears;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (F)—

6 (I) in clause (i), by redesignating
7 subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa)
8 and (bb), respectively;

9 (II) by redesignating clauses (i)
10 and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II);
11 and

12 (III) by striking the period at the
13 end of subclause (II) as so redesign-
14 ated and inserting “; and”;

15 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
16 (A) through (G) as clauses (i) through
17 (vii), respectively, and adjusting the mar-
18 gin accordingly;

19 (iv) by striking “for each Federal
20 award—” and inserting the following: “for
21 all Federal funds—

22 “(A) for each Federal agency, component
23 of a Federal agency, appropriations account,
24 program activity, and object class (including

1 any subcomponent of an object class), and other
2 accounts or data as appropriate—

3 “(i) the amount of budget authority
4 available;

5 “(ii) the amount obligated;

6 “(iii) the amount of outlays;

7 “(iv) the amount of any Federal funds
8 reprogrammed or transferred; and

9 “(v) the amount of expired and unex-
10 pired unobligated balances; and

11 “(B) for each Federal award—”; and

12 (v) in subparagraph (B)(iii), as so
13 designated by this subparagraph, by insert-
14 ing “, which shall be assigned a unique
15 identifier,” after “information on the
16 award”;

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) by striking “The Director of the
19 Office of Management and Budget” and
20 inserting “The Secretary of the Treasury”;
21 and

22 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
23 sserting “the Secretary”;

24 (C) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) by striking “the Director of the
2 Office of Management and Budget” and
3 inserting “the Secretary of the Treasury”;
4 and

5 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
6 serting “the Secretary”, each place it ap-
7 pears; and

8 (D) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(5) APPLICATION OF DATA STANDARDS.—The
10 Secretary of the Treasury shall apply the data
11 standards established under subsection (e) to all
12 data collection, data dissemination, and data publi-
13 cation required under this section.

14 “(6) DATA FEED TO RECOVERY ACCOUNT-
15 ABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD.—The Sec-
16 retary of the Treasury shall provide the data de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1) to the Recovery Account-
18 ability and Transparency Board so that it can be in-
19 cluded in the Recovery Operations Center described
20 in subsection (h).”;

21 (4) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A), by striking “and Grants.gov”
25 and inserting “Grants.gov, the Payment

1 Automation Manager and Financial Infor-
2 mation Repository and other data or data-
3 bases from the Department of the Treas-
4 ury, the MAX Information System of the
5 Office of Management and Budget, and
6 other data from Federal agencies collected
7 and identified by the Office of Manage-
8 ment and Budget”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding
10 “and” at the end; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(C) specify such search shall be confined
14 to Federal funds;”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the
16 Payment Automation Manager and Financial
17 Information Repository and other data or data-
18 bases from the Department of the Treasury, the
19 MAX Information System of the Office of Man-
20 agement and Budget, other data from Federal
21 agencies collected and identified by the Office of
22 Management and Budget,” after “Grants.gov
23 website,”;

24 (C) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) by striking “shall be updated not
2 later” and inserting the following: “shall
3 be updated—

4 “(A) not later”; and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(B) not less than once each quarter with
8 information relating to Federal funds;”;

9 (D) in paragraph (5)—

10 (i) by inserting “Federal funds and”
11 before “Federal awards” the first place it
12 appears;

13 (ii) by striking “subsection
14 (a)(2)(A)(i) and those described in sub-
15 section (a)(2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “sub-
16 section (a)(3)(A)(i) and those described in
17 subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)”;

18 (iii) by striking the period at the end
19 and inserting a semicolon; and

20 (E) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for
22 the categories described in paragraphs (1) through
23 (5) without double-counting data; and

24 “(7) shall permit all information published
25 under this section to be downloaded in bulk.”;

1 (5) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and
2 (g) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and
3 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
4 lowing new subsections:

5 “(e) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY REQUIRE-
6 MENTS FOR DATA STANDARDS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
8 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the
9 Office of Management and Budget, the Adminis-
10 trator of General Services, and the heads of Federal
11 agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial
12 data standards for Federal funds, which shall—

13 “(A) include common data elements, such
14 as codes, unique award identifiers, and fields,
15 for financial and payment information required
16 to be reported by Federal agencies and entities
17 receiving Federal funds, including identifiers for
18 Federal awards and entities receiving Federal
19 awards;

20 “(B) to the extent reasonable and prac-
21 ticable, ensure interoperability and incor-
22 porate—

23 “(i) common data elements developed
24 and maintained by an international vol-
25 untary consensus standards body, as de-

1 fined by the Office of Management and
2 Budget, such as the International Organi-
3 zation for Standardization;

4 “(ii) common data elements developed
5 and maintained by Federal agencies with
6 authority over contracting and financial as-
7 sistance, such as the Federal Acquisition
8 Regulatory Council; and

9 “(iii) common data elements devel-
10 oped and maintained by accounting stand-
11 ards organizations; and

12 “(C) include data reporting standards
13 that—

14 “(i) incorporate a widely accepted,
15 nonproprietary, searchable, platform-inde-
16 pendent computer-readable format;

17 “(ii) are consistent with and imple-
18 ment applicable accounting principles;

19 “(iii) are capable of being continually
20 upgraded as necessary;

21 “(iv) are structured to specifically
22 support the reporting of financial and per-
23 formance-related data, such as that any
24 data produced, regardless of reporting
25 need or software used for creation or con-

1 sumption, is consistent and comparable
2 across reporting situations;

3 “(v) establish, for each data point, a
4 standard method of conveying the report-
5 ing period, reporting entity, unit of meas-
6 ure, and other associated attributes; and

7 “(vi) incorporate nonproprietary
8 standards in effect on the date of enact-
9 ment of the Digital Accountability and
10 Transparency Act of 2013.

11 “(2) DEADLINES.—

12 “(A) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the
13 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of
14 the Office of Management and Budget, shall
15 issue guidance on the data standards estab-
16 lished under paragraph (1) to Federal agencies
17 not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
18 ment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
19 parency Act of 2013.

20 “(B) WEBSITE.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date on which the guidance under
22 clause (i) is issued, the Secretary of the Treas-
23 ury shall ensure that the website required under
24 this section makes data publicly available in ac-

1 cordance with the data standards established
2 under paragraph (1).

3 “(C) AGENCIES.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date on which the guidance under sub-
5 paragraph (A) is issued, each Federal agency
6 shall collect, report, and maintain data in ac-
7 cordance with the data standards established
8 under paragraph (1).

9 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of the
10 Treasury shall consult with public and private stake-
11 holders in establishing data standards under this
12 subsection.

13 “(f) CONSOLIDATED RECIPIENT FINANCIAL RE-
14 PORTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and
15 Budget shall—

16 “(1) review the financial reporting required by
17 Federal agencies for Federal award recipients to
18 consolidate financial reporting and reduce duplica-
19 tive financial reporting and compliance costs for re-
20 cipients;

21 “(2) request input from Federal award recipi-
22 ents to reduce duplicative financial reporting, espe-
23 cially from State and local governments and institu-
24 tions of higher education;

1 “(3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
2 actment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
3 parency Act of 2013, provide guidance to the heads
4 of Federal agencies regarding how to simplify the re-
5 porting requirements for Federal award recipients to
6 consolidate financial reporting, reduce duplicative re-
7 porting, and reduce compliance costs, as appro-
8 priate; and

9 “(4) not later than 18 months after the date of
10 enactment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
11 parency Act of 2013, submit to Congress a report
12 regarding any legislative action required to consoli-
13 date, streamline, or reduce the cost of reporting re-
14 quirements for Federal award recipients.

15 “(g) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability
18 and Transparency Act of 2013, and every 2 years
19 thereafter until the date that is 6 years after such
20 date of enactment, the Inspector General of each
21 Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller
22 General of the United States, shall review a sam-
23 pling of the data submitted under this Act by the
24 agency, and shall submit to Congress and make pub-
25 licly available a report on the completeness, timeli-

1 ness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and
2 the implementation and use of consistent data
3 standards by the Federal agency.

4 “(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of the Digital Ac-
7 countability and Transparency Act of 2013, and
8 every 2 years thereafter until the date that is
9 6 years after such date of enactment, and after
10 review of the reports submitted under para-
11 graph (1), the Comptroller General of the
12 United States shall submit to Congress and
13 make publicly available a report on the com-
14 pleteness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of
15 the data submitted under this Act by each Fed-
16 eral agency and the implementation and use of
17 consistent data standards by each Federal
18 agency.

19 “(B) RANKING.—The Comptroller General
20 of the United States shall make available a
21 ranking of Federal agencies regarding data
22 quality, accuracy, and compliance with this Act.

23 “(h) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANS-
24 PARENCY BOARD.—

1 “(1) RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS.—The Re-
2 covery Accountability and Transparency Board shall
3 develop and test information technology resources
4 and oversight mechanisms to enhance the trans-
5 parency of and detect and remediate waste, fraud,
6 and abuse in Federal spending for Inspectors Gen-
7 eral.

8 “(2) WEBSITE.—The Recovery Accountability
9 and Transparency Board shall maintain a website
10 informing the public of its activities to identify
11 waste, fraud, and abuse and increase transparency
12 of Federal funds to provide support for Inspectors
13 General.

14 “(3) RECOVERY OPERATIONS CENTER.—The
15 Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
16 shall establish and maintain a Recovery Operations
17 Center as a government-wide Internet-based data ac-
18 cess system to carry out the functions described in
19 paragraph (4).

20 “(4) FUNCTIONS OF THE RECOVERY OPER-
21 ATIONS CENTER.—The functions referred to in para-
22 graph (3) are the following:

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Recovery Oper-
24 ations Center shall incorporate—

1 “(i) all information described in sub-
2 section (b)(1);

3 “(ii) other information maintained by
4 Federal, State, local, and foreign govern-
5 ment agencies; and

6 “(iii) other commercially and publicly
7 available information.

8 “(B) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The Recovery
9 Operations Center shall be designed and oper-
10 ated to carry out the following functions:

11 “(i) Combine information described in
12 subsection (b)(1) with other compilations
13 of information, including those listed in
14 subparagraph (A).

15 “(ii) Permit agencies, in accordance
16 with applicable law, to detect and reme-
17 diate waste, fraud, and abuse.”.

18 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE CONSOLIDATED RE-**
19 **CIPIENT REPORTING.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Recovery Accountability
22 and Transparency Board, in consultation with the Sec-
23 retary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of
24 Management and Budget, shall establish a pilot program
25 relating to reporting by recipients of Federal funds (in this

1 section referred to as the “pilot program”) for the purpose
2 of increasing financial transparency to—

3 (1) display the full cycle of Federal funds;

4 (2) improve the accuracy of Federal financial
5 data; and

6 (3) develop recommendations for reducing re-
7 porting required of recipients of Federal funds by
8 consolidating and automating financial reporting re-
9 quirements across the Federal Government.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

11 (1) include a combination of recipients of Fed-
12 eral contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate
13 value of which is not less than \$1,000,000,000;

14 (2) include a diverse group of recipients of Fed-
15 eral awards; and

16 (3) to the extent practicable, include recipients
17 that receive Federal awards from multiple programs
18 across multiple agencies.

19 (c) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—Each recipient of Federal funds participating in
21 the pilot program shall submit to the Recovery Account-
22 ability and Transparency Board reports on the finances
23 of the selected Federal awards.

24 (d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—All the infor-
25 mation collected by the Recovery Accountability and

1 Transparency Board under the pilot program shall be
2 made publicly available and searchable on the website es-
3 tablished under section 2 of the Federal Funding Account-
4 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101
5 note).

6 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
7 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
8 the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board es-
9 tablishes the pilot program.

10 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
11 on which the pilot program terminates under subsection
12 (e), the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
13 shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget, the
14 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
15 fairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and
16 Government Reform of the House of Representatives a re-
17 port on the pilot program, which shall include—

18 (1) a description of financial data collected
19 under the pilot program, the accuracy of the data
20 provided, and the cost to collect the data from re-
21 cipients; and

22 (2) recommendations for—

23 (A) consolidating some or all aspects of
24 Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs
25 to recipients of Federal funds;

1 (B) automating some or all aspects of Fed-
2 eral financial reporting to increase efficiency
3 and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal
4 funds; and

5 (C) improving financial transparency.

6 (g) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not
7 later than 90 days after the date on which the Office of
8 Management and Budget receives the report required by
9 subsection (f), the Director of the Office of Management
10 and Budget shall determine whether to authorize the Re-
11 covery Accountability and Transparency Board to extend
12 the recipient reporting requirements of the pilot program
13 to all Federal funds. The Recovery Accountability and
14 Transparency Board shall begin requiring Government-
15 wide recipient reporting at the start of the fiscal year that
16 commences after the fiscal year during which such author-
17 ization is granted, and under such terms and conditions
18 that the Board shall determine, in consultation with the
19 Director.

20 **SEC. 5. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

21 Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
22 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
23 amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 3. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

2 “Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to
3 the public or to any person without an identifiable need
4 to know—

5 “(1) information protected under section 552 of
6 title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the
7 ‘Freedom of Information Act’); or

8 “(2) information protected under section 552a
9 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as
10 the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), or section 6103 of the
11 Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”

12 **SEC. 6. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF**
13 **2009 AMENDMENTS.**

14 Division A of Public Law 111–5 is amended—

15 (1) in section 1501 of title XV, by striking
16 paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

17 “(4) COVERED FUNDS.—The term ‘covered
18 funds’—

19 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
20 (B), means any funds that are expended or ob-
21 ligated from appropriations made under this
22 Act; and

23 “(B) for purposes of sections 1522 and
24 1524, means funds that are expended or obli-
25 gated by an agency from appropriations made
26 under this or any other Act.”;

1 (2) in section 1512 of title XV, by adding at
2 the end the following:

3 “(i) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
4 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”;

5 (3) in section 1523 of title XV, by adding at
6 the end the following:

7 “(d) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
8 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”;

9 (4) in section 1526 of title XV, by adding at
10 the end the following:

11 “(e) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
12 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”; and

13 (5) in section 1530 of title XV, by striking
14 “September 30, 2013.” and inserting “September
15 30, 2017.”.

16 **SEC. 7. DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013**
17 **AMENDMENTS.**

18 Division A of Public Law 113–2 is amended in sec-
19 tion 904(d)—

20 (1) by striking “for purposes related to the im-
21 pact of Hurricane Sandy”;

22 (2) by striking “related to the impact of Hurri-
23 cane Sandy” after “receiving appropriations”; and

1 (3) by striking “related to funds appropriated
2 for the impact of Hurricane Sandy” after “on its ac-
3 tivities”.

4 **SEC. 8. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FI-**
5 **NANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND**
6 **PLANS.**

7 Section 3512(a) of title 31, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and make
10 available on the website described under section
11 1122 of this title” after “appropriate committees of
12 the Congress”;

13 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)(vi), by inserting “, sys-
14 tem development, financial management workforce
15 development, related risk assessment and mitigation
16 for the Federal Government as a whole, related risk
17 assessment and mitigation for executive agencies,
18 development of capacity to prevent and detect
19 fraud,” after “equipment acquisitions”; and

20 (3) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
21 following:

22 “(C) Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
23 ment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act
24 of 2013, and every 90 days thereafter, the Director shall

1 make available on the website described under section
2 1122 of this title a report regarding—

3 “(i) specific goals for the most recent full fiscal
4 year, the fiscal year during which the report is sub-
5 mitted, and the fiscal year following the year during
6 which the report is submitted that are necessary
7 steps toward implementing the Federal Funding Ac-
8 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31
9 U.S.C. 6101 note) fully and in an effective, efficient,
10 and accurate manner; and

11 “(ii) the status and progress achieved toward
12 each goal described in clause (i), including any
13 changes to the cost, schedule, or performance base-
14 lines of achieving each goal, using earned value man-
15 agement where appropriate.”.

16 **SEC. 9. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR CONFERENCE**
17 **AND TRAVEL SPENDING.**

18 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 57 of title 5, United
19 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5711
20 the following:

21 **“§ 5712. Limits and transparency for conference and**
22 **travel spending**

23 “(a) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND SPENDING
24 LIMITS.—

1 “(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE
2 MATERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public
3 website of that agency detailed information on any
4 presentation made by any employee of that agency
5 at a conference (except to the extent the head of an
6 agency excludes such information for reasons of na-
7 tional security or information described under sec-
8 tion 552(b)) including—

9 “(A) the prepared text of any verbal pres-
10 entation made; and

11 “(B) any visual, digital, video, or audio
12 materials presented, including photographs,
13 slides, and audio-visual recordings.

14 “(2) LIMITS ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CON-
15 FERENCE.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
17 under subparagraph (B), an agency may not
18 expend more than \$500,000 to support a single
19 conference.

20 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The head of an agency
21 may waive the limitation under subparagraph
22 (A) for a specific conference after making a de-
23 termination that the expenditure is justified as
24 the most cost-effective option to achieve a com-
25 pelling purpose. The head of an agency shall

1 submit to the appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees a report on any waiver granted under
3 this subparagraph, including the justification
4 for such waiver.

5 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
6 in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude
7 an agency from receiving financial support or
8 other assistance from a private entity to pay or
9 defray the costs of a conference the total cost
10 of which exceeds \$500,000.

11 “(b) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RULE.—An
12 agency may not pay the travel expenses for more than 50
13 employees of that agency who are stationed in the United
14 States, for any international conference, unless the Sec-
15 retary of State determines that attendance for such em-
16 ployees is in the national interest, or the head of the agen-
17 cy determines that attendance for such employees is crit-
18 ical to the agency’s mission. The Secretary of State and
19 the head of an agency shall submit to the appropriate con-
20 gressional committees a report on any waiver granted
21 under this subsection, including the justification for such
22 waiver.

23 “(c) REPORTING ON TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE EX-
24 PENSES REQUIRED.—At the beginning of each quarter of
25 each fiscal year, each agency shall post on the public

1 website of that agency a report on each conference that
2 costs more than \$10,000 for which the agency paid travel
3 expenses during the preceding 3 months that includes—

4 “(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency,
5 including travel, lodging, and meal expenses, and
6 any other agency expenditures to otherwise support
7 the conference;

8 “(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

9 “(3) the location of the conference;

10 “(4) the date of the conference;

11 “(5) a brief explanation of how the participa-
12 tion of employees from such agency at the con-
13 ference advanced the mission of the agency;

14 “(6) the title of any employee, or any individual
15 who is not a Federal employee, whose travel ex-
16 penses or other conference expenses were paid by the
17 agency;

18 “(7) the total number of individuals whose trav-
19 el expenses or other conference expenses were paid
20 by the agency; and

21 “(8) in the case of a conference for which that
22 agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

23 “(A) describes the cost to the agency of se-
24 lecting the specific conference venue;

1 “(B) describes why the location was se-
2 lected, including a justification for such selec-
3 tion;

4 “(C) demonstrates the cost efficiency of
5 the location;

6 “(D) provides a cost benefit analysis of
7 holding a conference rather than conducting a
8 teleconference; and

9 “(E) describes any financial support or
10 other assistance from a private entity used to
11 pay or defray the costs of the conference, and
12 for each case where such support or assistance
13 was used, the head of the agency shall include
14 a certification that there is no conflict of inter-
15 est resulting from such support or assistance.

16 “(d) FORMAT AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—
17 Each report posted on the public website under subsection
18 (c) shall—

19 “(1) be in a searchable electronic format; and

20 “(2) remain on that website for at least 5 years
21 after the date of posting.

22 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
24 meaning given that term under section 5701, but

1 does not include the government of the District of
2 Columbia.

3 “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
4 means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or
5 event that—

6 “(A) is held for consultation, education,
7 discussion, or training; and

8 “(B) is not held entirely at a Government
9 facility.

10 “(3) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The term
11 ‘international conference’ means a conference occur-
12 ring outside the United States attended by rep-
13 resentatives of—

14 “(A) the Government of the United States;
15 and

16 “(B) any foreign government, international
17 organization, or foreign nongovernmental orga-
18 nization.”.

19 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
20 The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United
21 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
22 ing to section 5711 the following:

“5712. Limits and transparency for conference and travel spending.”.

23 (c) ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSE LIMITS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each of fiscal
25 years 2014 through 2018, an agency (as defined

1 under section 5712(e) of title 5, United States Code,
2 as added by subsection (a)) may not make, or obli-
3 gate to make, expenditures for travel expenses, in an
4 aggregate amount greater than 70 percent of the ag-
5 gregate amount of such expenses for fiscal year
6 2010.

7 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—The agency may exclude
8 certain travel expenses from the limitation under
9 paragraph (1) only if the agency head determines
10 that inclusion of such expenses would undermine na-
11 tional security, international diplomacy, health and
12 safety inspections, law enforcement, or site visits re-
13 quired for oversight or investigatory purposes.

14 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—In each of fiscal
15 years 2014 through 2018, the head of each agency
16 shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and
17 Government Reform of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
19 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report con-
20 taining—

21 (A) the justification for any expenses ex-
22 cluded (under paragraph (2)) from the limita-
23 tion under paragraph (1); and

24 (B) the positive or negative impacts, if
25 any, of the limitation under paragraph (1) on

1 the agency's mission, cost-effectiveness, effi-
2 ciency, and ability to perform core functions.

3 (4) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

4 (A) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than
5 January 1, 2014, and after consultation with
6 the Administrator of General Services and the
7 Director of the Administrative Office of the
8 United States Courts, the Director of the Office
9 of Management and Budget shall establish
10 guidelines for the determination of what ex-
11 penses constitute travel expenses for purposes
12 of this subsection. The guidelines shall identify
13 specific expenses, and classes of expenses, that
14 are to be treated as travel expenses.

15 (B) EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY TRAVEL.—

16 The guidelines required under subparagraph
17 (A) shall exclude military travel expenses in de-
18 termining what expenses constitute travel ex-
19 penses. Military travel expenses shall include
20 travel expenses involving military combat, the
21 training or deployment of uniformed military
22 personnel, and such other travel expenses as de-
23 termined by the Director of the Office of Man-
24 agement and Budget, in consultation with the
25 Administrator of General Services and the Di-

1 rector of the Administrative Office of the
2 United States Courts.