# <sup>112TH CONGRESS</sup> **H. R. 4289**

To enhance the disclosure of information on official foreign travel of Members and employees of Congress, to impose additional restrictions on such travel, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 28, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

## A BILL

- To enhance the disclosure of information on official foreign travel of Members and employees of Congress, to impose additional restrictions on such travel, 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.**

- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Transparency and Ac-
- 5 countability in Congressional Travel Act of 2012".

 1
 SEC. 2. ENHANCED DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER AND STAFF

 2
 TRAVEL.

3 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIAL FOR4 EIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES.—

5 (1) STATEMENT REQUIRED PRIOR TO UNDER-6 TAKING TRAVEL.—A Member or employee of Con-7 gress may not undertake any official foreign travel 8 unless, not later than 14 days prior to the date on 9 which the travel begins, the Member or employee 10 prepares and submits to the Clerk of the House of 11 Representatives (in the case of a Member or em-12 ployee of the House) or the Secretary of the Senate 13 (in the case of a Senator or employee of the Senate) 14 a statement containing the following information:

15 (A) The name and position of the Member
16 or employee involved, and (in the case of an em17 ployee) the employing office.

18 (B) The office authorizing the travel.

19 (C) A statement of worthiness regarding
20 the purpose of the travel, including a descrip21 tion of how the travel relates to the Member's
22 or employee's official duties.

(D) A tentative itinerary for each day of
the travel, including a list of the foreign nations
and the locations within each such nation the
Member or employee intends to visit and any

1	individuals with whom the Member or employee
2	intends to meet.
3	(E) The names of any other individuals
4	who are accompanying the Member or employee
5	during the travel, without regard to whether
6	such individuals are Members or employees of
7	the House.
8	(F) The amount of per diem the Member
9	or employee requested to be provided for the
10	travel, and whether the amount is greater than
11	the standard per diem provided under chapter
12	57 of title 5, United States Code.
13	(G) A statement as to whether the aircraft
14	to be used for transportation for the travel is
15	commercial, chartered, private, or military), and
16	(in the case of commercial aircraft) whether the
17	seating is coach, business class, or first class.
18	(H) The Member's or employee's best esti-
19	mate of the costs of the travel, itemized by the
20	costs of transportation, meals, and lodging.
21	(I) If any portion of the cost of the travel
22	will be paid using appropriated funds other
23	than funds of the House of Representatives or
24	Senate (including funds of the Department of

	State), the name
2 of the office which is the sour	rce of such funds.
3 (2) Statement required af	TER COMPLETION
4 OF TRAVEL.—Not later than 14	days after com-
5 pleting any official foreign travel,	, the Member or
6 employee who undertook the travel	shall prepare and
7 submit to the Clerk of the House of	of Representatives
8 (in the case of a Member or employ	yee of the House)
9 or the Secretary of the Senate (in t	the case of a Sen-
10 ator or employee of the Senate)	a statement con-
11 taining the following information:	
12 (A) The name and position	on of the Member
13 or employee involved, and (in t	he case of an em-
14 ployee) the employing office.	
15 (B) The office authorizing	g the travel.
16 (C) A statement detailing	g the value, wor-
17 thiness, and educational benef	it to the Member
18 or employee of the travel.	
19 (D) The actual itinerary	for the travel, in-
20 cluding a comprehensive sta	tement of travel
21 times, foreign nations visited	and the locations
visited in each such nation, me	eetings, and other
23 activities carried out during the	e travel.
24 (E) The names of any	other individuals
25 who did accompany the Men	nber or employee

1	during the travel, without regard to whether
2	such individuals are Members or employees of
3	the House.
4	(F) How much (if any) per diem was pro-
5	vided for the travel and how much (if any) of
6	such per diem was unspent.
7	(G) A statement as to whether the aircraft
8	used for transportation for the travel was com-
9	mercial, chartered, private, or military), and (in
10	the case of commercial aircraft) whether the
11	seating was coach, business class, or first class.
12	(H) The actual cost of the travel, itemized
13	by the costs of—
14	(i) transportation (including the iden-
15	tification of the providers of the transpor-
16	tation);
17	(ii) lodging (including the identifica-
18	tion of the providers of the lodging); and
19	(iii) meals (including the identification
20	of the providers of the meals).
21	(I) If any portion of the cost of the travel
22	was paid (or will be paid) using appropriated
23	funds other than funds of the House of Rep-
24	resentatives or Senate (including funds of the
25	Department of Defense or the Department of

State), the name of the office which is the 2 source of such funds and the amount of the payment which is (or which will be) attributable to such office.

5 EXCEPTION FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMA-(3)6 TION.—A Member or employee may exclude from a 7 statement prepared under this subsection any infor-8 mation which is classified, so long as the Member in-9 cludes documentation in support of the exclusion in 10 the statement prepared under this subsection.

11 USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING.—To the (4)12 greatest extent practicable, a Member or employee 13 shall submit the statements required under this section in both paper and electronic form. 14

15 (b) DETERMINATION AND DISCLOSURE OF COSTS IN-CURRED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR SECRETARY OF 16 STATE.—In the case of official foreign travel of a Member 17 or employee of Congress for which any of the costs are 18 19 to be paid by funds of the Department of Defense or the Department of State, the Secretary of Defense or the Sec-20 21 retary of State (as the case may be) shall, not later than 22 10 days after completion of the travel involved, provide 23 the Member or employee with a written statement con-24 taining the following information:

1

3

4

(1) The cost incurred with respect to the Mem ber or employee, itemized by the cost of transpor tation, lodging, and meals.

4 (2) A statement as to whether the aircraft used
5 for transportation for the travel was commercial,
6 chartered, private, or military), and (in the case of
7 commercial aircraft) whether the seating was coach,
8 business class, or first class.

9 (3) Such other information as the Member or
10 employee may request in order to enable the Member
11 or employee to prepare and submit the statement re12 quired under subsection (a)(2).

(c) INTERNET POSTING OF REPORTS.—Upon receiving a statement under subsection (a) with respect to official foreign travel of a Member or employee of Congress,
the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary
of the Senate (as the case may be) shall post the statement
on the Clerk's or Secretary's official public Internet site
in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner.

20 SEC. 3. OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIAL FOREIGN 21 TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF.

(a) PROHIBITING VACATION STOPOVERS DURING
TRAVEL.—A Member or employee of Congress may not
undertake a vacation stopover for annual leave at any
point during official foreign travel.

7

1	(b) RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY EMPLOYEES.—
2	(1) TRAVEL BY EMPLOYEES OF MEMBERS.—An
3	employee of Congress whose employing office is the
4	office of a Member of Congress may not undertake
5	any official foreign travel unless—
6	(A) the authorizing office for the travel is
7	the office of the Member;
8	(B) the travel is undertaken by the em-
9	ployee to accompany the Member on the Mem-
10	ber's own official foreign travel; and
11	(C) no other employee of the office accom-
12	panies the Member on such travel.
13	(2) TRAVEL BY EMPLOYEES OF COMMITTEES.—
14	An employee of Congress whose employing office is
15	the office of a committee of the House of Represent-
16	atives or Senate (including a joint committee) may
17	not undertake any official foreign travel unless—
18	(A) the authorizing office for the travel is
19	the office of the committee;
20	(B) the travel is undertaken by the em-
21	ployee to accompany a Member who serves on
22	the committee on the Member's own official for-
23	eign travel; and
24	(C) the number of employees accom-
25	panying the Members of the committee on such

travel does not exceed the number of Members
 of the committee who are participating in such
 travel.

4 (3) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TRAVEL.—This
5 subsection does not apply with respect to travel to
6 a military installation or travel to a theater of oper7 ations of the Armed Forces.

8 (c) REQUIRING EFFORTS TO REDUCE EXPENSES;
9 RETURN OF UNSPENT PER DIEM.—Each Member and
10 employee of Congress who undertakes official foreign trav11 el shall—

(1) take such actions as may be necessary to re-duce the costs incurred for such travel; and

14 (2) return any per diem provided to the Mem15 ber or employee which remains unexpended as of the
16 conclusion of the travel.

(d) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed
to affect any requirement under the Rules of the House
of Representatives, the Standing Rules of the Senate, or
any law that a Member, officer, or employee of Congress
obtain authorization for official foreign travel prior to undertaking such travel.

24 (e) REGULATIONS.—This section shall be carried out
25 in accordance with regulations promulgated—

9

(1) by the Committee on House Administration
 of the House of Representatives, with respect to
 Members and employees of the House of Representa tives; or

5 (2) by the Committee on Rules and Administra6 tion of the Senate, with respect to Senators and em7 ployees of the Senate.

#### 8 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

9 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

10 (1) The term "authorizing office" means, with 11 respect to a Member or employee of Congress, the 12 office which is authorized under law or the Rules of 13 the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules 14 of the Senate to approve the use of appropriated 15 funds, including official funds of the Senate or 16 House of Representatives, for official travel outside 17 of the United States by the Member or employee.

(2) The term "employee of Congress" means an
individual whose salary is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives
or the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) The term "Member of Congress" means a
Senator or a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(4) The term "official foreign travel" means 1 2 any travel outside of the United States for which the 3 costs (including the costs of transportation, lodging, 4 meals, and related expenses) may be covered by ap-5 propriated funds, including official funds of the Senate or House of Representatives, under law or the 6 7 Rules of the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules of the Senate, or by funds provided under 8 9 section 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954 10 (22 U.S.C. 1754(b)).

#### 11 SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

12 This Act shall apply with respect to official foreign13 travel undertaken after the expiration of the 90-day period14 which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.