

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4454

To require the approval by the head of an agency for any conference costing more than \$25,000, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2012

Mr. FLEISCHMANN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require the approval by the head of an agency for any conference costing more than \$25,000, 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 “Agency Conferences
5 and Conventions Operating Under Necessary Trans-
6 parency Act of 2012” or the “ACCOUNT Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. AGENCY CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) AGENCY HEAD APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Any con-
9 ference costing more than \$25,000 must be approved in
10 writing by the head of the relevant agency before the date

1 on which such conference occurs. The head of an agency
2 may only approve such conference if the head determines
3 that the conference is necessary to the core mission of the
4 agency.

5 (b) PUBLICATION OF STATEMENT REQUIRED.—Not
6 later than 30 days after the date of a conference described
7 in subsection (a), the head of the agency shall publish on
8 the website of such agency a summary of the conference
9 that includes the purpose and total cost of the conference
10 and the cost per employee that attended the conference.

11 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Decem-
12 ber 31 of each year, the head of each agency shall submit
13 a report, for the previous fiscal year, to the relevant com-
14 mittees of the Congress that includes a list of each con-
15 ference approved pursuant to subsection (a) and with re-
16 gard to each such conference, the following:

- 17 (1) A summary of the purposes and goals.
18 (2) A description of the conference activities
19 that accomplish such purposes and goals.
20 (3) The total cost.
21 (4) The cost per government employee.

22 (d) EXCLUSION.—The requirements of this section
23 shall not apply—

- 24 (1) to the armed forces;

1 (2) with respect to law enforcement activity;
2 and

3 (3) with respect to any conference that the head
4 of the agency determines is classified or related to
5 national security.

6 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
8 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
9 United States Code.

10 (2) ARMED FORCES.—The term “armed forces”
11 has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of
12 title 5, United States Code.

13 (3) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference”
14 means a meeting of 40 or more employees that is lo-
15 cated more than 50 miles from the workplace of at
16 least 20 or more of such employees.

17 (4) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5,
19 United States Code.

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