

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2665

To amend section 5707 of title 5, United States Code, to require the General Services Administration to make information regarding travel by the heads of Executive agencies and other individuals in senior positions publicly available.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend section 5707 of title 5, United States Code, to require the General Services Administration to make information regarding travel by the heads of Executive agencies and other individuals in senior positions publicly available.

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 “Federal Travel Trans-
5 parency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REGARDING TRAV-**
2 **EL BY CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICIALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5707 of title 5, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(d) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION
7 REGARDING TRAVEL BY CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICIALS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘Administrator’ means the
10 Administrator of General Services;

11 “(B) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

12 “(i) the head of an Executive agency;

13 or

14 “(ii) an individual serving in a posi-
15 tion at level I or II of the Executive Sched-
16 ule under section 5312 or 5313, respec-
17 tively;

18 “(C) the term ‘machine-readable form’
19 means a format in which information or data
20 can be easily processed by a computer without
21 human intervention while ensuring no semantic
22 meaning is lost;

23 “(D) the term ‘open format’ means a tech-
24 nical format based on an underlying open
25 standard that is—

1 “(i) not encumbered by restrictions
2 that would impede use or reuse; and

3 “(ii) based on an underlying open
4 standard that is maintained by a standards
5 organization; and

6 “(E) the term ‘travel information website’
7 means the website used by the Administrator to
8 make available information under paragraph
9 (2)(B)(i).

10 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF TRAVEL INFOR-
11 MATION FOR COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—

12 “(A) REPORTING.—Not later than 30 busi-
13 ness days after the end of each calendar quar-
14 ter, each Executive agency employing 1 or more
15 covered individuals who performed official travel
16 during the calendar quarter shall submit to the
17 Administrator data in machine-readable form
18 and open format regarding the travel by each
19 such covered individual during the calendar
20 quarter on a commercial aircraft, privately-
21 owned aircraft, or Government-owned or Gov-
22 ernment-leased aircraft, which shall include—

23 “(i) the duration of the travel;

24 “(ii) the destination or destinations of
25 the travel;

1 “(iii) the individuals in the travel
2 party;

3 “(iv) the justification for the travel;

4 “(v) the authorizing official who ap-
5 proved the travel; and

6 “(vi) the total cost to the Government
7 for—

8 “(I) the travel as a whole;

9 “(II) transportation during the
10 travel; and

11 “(III) lodging accommodations
12 during the travel.

13 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
15 shall make available online to the public, at
16 no cost to access, the information provided
17 by Executive agencies to the Administrator
18 under subparagraph (A).

19 “(ii) NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMA-
20 TION.—

21 “(I) IN GENERAL.—An Executive
22 agency may exclude national security
23 sensitive travel information from the
24 travel information submitted to the
25 Administrator if the Executive agency

1 determines public online disclosure of
2 the national security sensitive travel
3 information would result in harm to
4 national security interests.

5 “(II) JUSTIFICATION.—Each Ex-
6 ecutive agency shall establish and pre-
7 serve an accurate record documenting
8 each instance in which the Executive
9 agency excluded national security sen-
10 sitive travel information from submis-
11 sion, as authorized in subclause (I),
12 which shall include information ex-
13 plaining how public online disclosure
14 of the national security sensitive trav-
15 el information would have resulted in
16 harm to national security interests.

17 “(C) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—To
18 the maximum extent practicable, the Adminis-
19 trator shall use a website in existence on the
20 date of enactment of this subsection to carry
21 out this subsection.

22 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 30 busi-
23 ness days after the date on which the Administrator
24 receives information from an Executive agency re-
25 garding travel by a covered individual under para-

1 graph (2)(A), the Administrator shall make the in-
2 formation available on the travel information
3 website.

4 “(4) CLASSIFIED TRIPS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this sub-
6 section shall preclude an Executive agency from
7 excluding from the information submitted to the
8 Administrator information regarding classified
9 travel.

10 “(B) MAINTAINING OF INFORMATION.—An
11 Executive agency shall maintain information re-
12 lating to classified travel by a covered employee
13 until the end of the 2-year period beginning on
14 the date on which the classified travel con-
15 cludes.

16 “(5) AUDITING.—The Inspector General of
17 each Executive agency may, as determined appro-
18 priate by the Inspector General—

19 “(A) conduct and publish an audit of the
20 accuracy and completeness of information the
21 Executive agency provides to the Administrator
22 under paragraph (2)(A);

23 “(B) conduct an audit of determinations
24 by the Executive agency to exclude information
25 under paragraph (2)(B)(ii) to ensure each such

1 decision was appropriate and justified in regard
2 to protecting national security interests from
3 harm that would have resulted from public on-
4 line disclosure; and

5 “(C) provide each committee of Congress
6 with jurisdiction over the activities of or appro-
7 priations for the Executive agency with written
8 notification if the Inspector General determines
9 that the Executive agency is improperly with-
10 holding, or failed to justify the withholding of,
11 information from the Administrator under para-
12 graph (2)(B)(ii).”.

13 (b) RELATION TO OTHER REPORTING REQUIRE-
14 MENTS.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection
15 (a) shall be construed to modify or supercede the reporting
16 requirements under the Federal Travel Regulation (in-
17 cluding the requirements relating to the Senior Federal
18 Travel report, or any successor thereto) or under any
19 other provision of law.

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