

Calendar No. 192

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 115

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Reported by Ms. CANTWELL, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Tourism
3 in the United States Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PAN-**
5 **DEMIC ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY**
6 **IN UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
9 sultation with the United States Travel and Tourism Advi-
10 sory Board and the head of any other Federal agency the
11 Secretary considers appropriate, shall complete a study on
12 the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and
13 tourism industry, including various segments of the travel
14 and tourism industry, such as domestic, international, lei-
15 sure, business, conventions, meetings, and events.

16 (b) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In conducting
17 the study required by subsection (a) and the interim study
18 required by subsection (e)(1), the Secretary shall con-
19 sider—

20 (1) changes in employment rates in the travel
21 and tourism industry during the pandemic period;

22 (2) changes in revenues of businesses in the
23 travel and tourism industry during the pandemic pe-
24 riod;

25 (3) changes in employment and sales in indus-
26 tries related to the travel and tourism industry, and

changes in contributions of the travel and tourism industry to such related industries, during the pandemic period;

(4) the effects attributable to the changes described in paragraphs (1) through (3) in the travel and tourism industry and such related industries on the overall economy of the United States, *and an analysis of regional economies on a per capita basis* during the pandemic period and the projected effects of such changes on the *regional and* overall economy of the United States following the pandemic period; ~~and~~

(5) *reports on the economic impact of COVID-19 issued by other Federal agencies to-date; and*

~~(5)~~(6) any additional matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with representatives of—

(A) the small business sector;

(B) the restaurant or food service sector;

(C) the hotel and alternative accommodations sector;

(D) the attractions or recreations sector;

1 (E) the travel distribution services sector;
2 (F) destination marketing organizations;
3 (G) State tourism offices; and
4 (H) the passenger air, railroad, and rental
5 car sectors; and

6 (2) provide an opportunity for public comment
7 and advice relevant to conducting the study.

8 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
9 months after the date on which the study required by sub-
10 section (a) is completed, the Secretary, in consultation
11 with the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory
12 Board and the head of any other Federal agency the Sec-
13 retary considers appropriate, shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
16 and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly
17 available on the website of the Department of Commerce,
18 a report that contains—

19 (1) the results of such study; and

20 (2) policy recommendations for promoting and
21 assisting the travel and tourism industry.

22 (e) INTERIM STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than
23 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary, after consultation with relevant stakeholders,

1 including the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory
2 Board, shall—

3 (1) complete an interim study, which shall be
4 based on data available at the time when the study
5 is conducted and provide a framework for the study
6 required by subsection (a), on the effects of the
7 COVID–19 pandemic (as of such time) on the travel
8 and tourism industry, including various segments of
9 the travel and tourism industry, such as domestic,
10 international, leisure, business, conventions, meet-
11 ings, and events; and

12 (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and
13 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
14 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
15 tation of the Senate, and make publicly available on
16 the website of the Department of Commerce, an in-
17 terim report that contains the results of the interim
18 study required by paragraph (1).

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) PANDEMIC PERIOD.—The term “pandemic
21 period” has the meaning given the term “emergency
22 period” in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Secu-
23 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)(B)), excluding
24 any portion of such period after the date that is 1
25 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

3 (3) TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY.—The
4 term “travel and tourism industry” means the travel
5 and tourism industry in the United States.

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