

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2967

To prohibit the use of Federal funds in support of any travel undertaken by the President, Vice President, or certain other executive branch officials which includes the attendance by the official at any political campaign or fundraising event unless the sponsor of the event reimburses the Federal government for the actual costs incurred in support of the travel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of Federal funds in support of any travel undertaken by the President, Vice President, or certain other executive branch officials which includes the attendance by the official at any political campaign or fundraising event unless the sponsor of the event reimburses the Federal government for the actual costs incurred in support of the 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Campaign Taxpayer
3 Reimbursement Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN SUPPORT**
5 **OF TRAVEL WHICH INCLUDES POLITICAL**
6 **CAMPAIGN OR FUNDRAISING EVENTS.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—No funds of the Federal govern-
8 ment may be used to carry out or support any travel un-
9 dertaken by a covered executive branch official away from
10 the official’s designated post of duty if at any time while
11 the official is away from the official’s designated post of
12 duty the official attends any political campaign event or
13 any political fundraising event, unless the office of the offi-
14 cial is reimbursed for the actual costs incurred by the Fed-
15 eral government in carrying out or supporting such travel
16 (subject to subsection (b)) by—

17 (1) the principal campaign committee of the
18 candidate, in the case of an event held in support of
19 a candidate; or

20 (2) the political committee involved, in the case
21 of an event held in support of a political committee
22 of a political party.

23 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE
24 PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL.—In the case of travel under-
25 taken by the President or the Vice President, the amount

1 of the reimbursement required to be made under sub-
2 section (a) shall be subject to the following:

3 (1) In the case of travel undertaken by the
4 President or the Vice President which includes a po-
5 litical campaign event in support of the President's
6 or Vice President's own campaign—

7 (A) the amount of the reimbursement re-
8 quired to be made for the costs of using an air-
9 craft or other form of transportation may not
10 exceed the commercial charter rate for an air-
11 plane or other form of transportation sufficient
12 in size to accommodate the campaign-related
13 travelers, including the President or the Vice
14 President, members of the news media, and the
15 Secret Service (taking into account any reim-
16 bursement paid by members of the news
17 media); and

18 (B) any costs attributable to the provision
19 of services by the Secret Service shall be ex-
20 cluded.

21 (2) In the case of travel undertaken by the
22 President or the Vice President for a political cam-
23 paign event or a political fundraising event on behalf
24 of more than one sponsor, candidate, or political
25 party, the amount required to be reimbursed shall be

1 allocated among the sponsors, candidates, or polit-
2 ical parties involved in accordance with a formula es-
3 tablished under regulations promulgated by the Fed-
4 eral Election Commission which are consistent with
5 the requirements regarding the reimbursement rate
6 described in paragraph (1).

7 (c) EXCEPTION FOR PERSONAL COMPENSATION.—
8 Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to amounts
9 paid as salary to a covered executive branch official.

10 (d) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS
11 OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—This section shall
12 apply with respect to funds used to carry out or support
13 travel undertaken by a Member of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commis-
15 sioner to the Congress) in the same manner as it applies
16 to a covered legislative branch official, other than funds
17 in any Member’s Representational Allowance. Nothing in
18 the previous sentence may be construed to waive or other-
19 wise affect any provision of law or any rule or regulation
20 of the House of Representatives which prohibits the use
21 of official funds of the House to support any purposes not
22 related to the official and representational duties of a
23 Member of the House.

24 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
25 nitions apply:

1 (1) The term “covered executive branch offi-
2 cial” means—

3 (A) the President, the Vice President, and
4 any other individual whose official travel ex-
5 penses may be paid using funds under chapter
6 2 of title 3, United States Code; and

7 (B) the head of any executive agency (as
8 defined in section 105 of title 5, United States
9 Code).

10 (2) The term “designated post of duty” has the
11 meaning given such term under chapter 57 of title
12 5, United States Code, except that in the case of a
13 covered executive branch official described in para-
14 graph (1)(A), such term means the White House.

15 (3) The term “political campaign event” means,
16 with respect to a covered executive branch official,
17 an event held in support of a candidate for election
18 for any Federal, State, or local public office or any
19 national, State, or local political party at which the
20 official endorses or supports (or could reasonably be
21 determined to endorse or support) such a candidate
22 or political party.

23 (4) The term “political committee” has the
24 meaning given such term in the Federal Election
25 Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).

1 (5) The term “political fundraising event”
2 means any event during which funds are raised to
3 support any candidate for election for any Federal,
4 State, or local public office or any national, State,
5 or local political party, including an event at which
6 a donation of funds to support any such candidate
7 or party is required in order to attend.

8 (6) The term “principal campaign committee”
9 has the meaning given such term in the Federal
10 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et
11 seq.), except that in the case of a candidate for elec-
12 tion for State or local public office, the determina-
13 tion of the principal campaign committee shall be
14 made in accordance with the applicable law of the
15 State involved.

16 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT BY CAMPAIGNS.**

17 Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
18 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
19 end the following new section:

20 “REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN STATE AND
21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY COSTS

22 “SEC. 325. (a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—If a
23 State or unit of local government incurs costs for pro-
24 viding security and related services as the result of the
25 attendance by a covered executive branch official at a po-
26 litical campaign event or a political fundraising event, the

1 actual costs incurred in providing such services shall be
2 reimbursed—

3 “(1) in the case of an event held in support of
4 a candidate, by the principal campaign committee of
5 the candidate; and

6 “(2) in the case of an event held in support of
7 a political committee of a political party, by the com-
8 mittee involved.

9 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PRESIDENTIAL AND
10 VICE PRESIDENTIAL EVENTS.—Subsection (a) shall not
11 apply with respect to costs which are incurred as the result
12 of the attendance of the President or Vice President at
13 a political campaign event held in support of the Presi-
14 dent’s or Vice President’s own campaign.

15 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘cov-
16 ered executive branch official’, ‘political campaign event’,
17 and ‘political fundraising event’ have the meaning given
18 such terms in section 2(e) of the Campaign Taxpayer Re-
19 imbursement Act of 2007.”.

20 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
22 apply with respect to travel undertaken on or after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act.

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