

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1804

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semiannual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semiannual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Foreign Travel Ac-
5 countability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SEMIANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON COST OF**
2 **FOREIGN TRAVEL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 5 of title
4 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 518. Semiannual reports to Congress on cost of for-**
7 **oreign travel**

8 “(a) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than June
9 30, 2014, and each 180-day period thereafter, the Sec-
10 retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
12 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate a semiannual report on
13 covered foreign travel made during the 180-day period
14 covered by the report.

15 “(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—Each report under sub-
16 section (a) shall include the following:

17 “(1) With respect to each instance of covered
18 foreign travel made during the period covered by the
19 report—

20 “(A) the purpose of such travel;

21 “(B) the destination;

22 “(C) the name and title of each employee
23 included on such travel;

24 “(D) the duration of such travel; and

25 “(E) the total cost to the Department of
26 such travel.

1 “(2) The final costs to the Department with re-
2 spect to all covered foreign travel made during the
3 period covered by the report, including costs relating
4 to—

5 “(A) transportation, including fares for
6 travel by air, rail, bus, ferry, cruise ship, taxi,
7 mass transit, or other mode of transportation;

8 “(B) expenses or reimbursements relating
9 to operating and maintaining a car, including
10 the costs of fuel and mileage;

11 “(C) passport and visa fees;

12 “(D) lodging;

13 “(E) per diem payments;

14 “(F) baggage charges;

15 “(G) computer rental fees;

16 “(H) rental of halls, auditoriums, or other
17 spaces;

18 “(I) entertainment; and

19 “(J) contractors.

20 “(c) DUPLICATIVE INFORMATION.—Each report
21 under subsection (a) shall include the information de-
22 scribed in subsection (b) regardless of whether such infor-
23 mation is also included in a report under section 517 of
24 this title.

1 “(d) COVERED FOREIGN TRAVEL DEFINED.—In this
2 section, the term ‘covered foreign travel’ means travel
3 made by an employee of the Department of Veterans Af-
4 fairs, including an employee who is stationed in a foreign
5 country, on official business to a location outside of—

6 “(1) the several States;

7 “(2) the District of Columbia;

8 “(3) a territory, commonwealth, or possession
9 of the United States;

10 “(4) Indian lands (as defined in section 4(4) of
11 the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C.
12 2703(4))); or

13 “(5) the territorial waters of the United
14 States.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
17 after the item relating to section 517 the following new
18 item:

“518. Semiannual reports to Congress on cost of foreign travel.”.

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