

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2013

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

Sec. 3. Amendments to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency
Act of 2006.

Sec. 4. Pilot program to evaluate consolidated recipient reporting.

Sec. 5. Classified and protected information.

Sec. 6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 amendments.

Sec. 7. Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 amendments.

Sec. 8. Executive agency accounting and other financial management reports
and plans.

Sec. 9. Limits and transparency for conference and travel spending.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are to—

8 (1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability
9 and Transparency Act of 2006 by disclosing direct
10 Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal
11 contract, loan, and grant spending information to
12 programs of Federal agencies in order to enable tax-
13 payers and policy makers to track Federal spending
14 more effectively;

15 (2) provide consistent, reliable, and searchable
16 Government-wide spending data that is displayed ac-
17 curately for taxpayers and policy makers on
18 USASpending.gov;

1 (3) analyze Federal spending data to
2 proactively prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and im-
3 proper payments;

4 (4) simplify reporting for entities receiving Fed-
5 eral funds by streamlining reporting requirements
6 and reducing compliance costs while improving
7 transparency; and

8 (5) improve the quality of data submitted to
9 USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies ac-
10 countable for the completeness and accuracy of the
11 data submitted.

12 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING AC-**
13 **COUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF**
14 **2006.**

15 Section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
16 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
17 amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**FULL**
19 **DISCLOSURE OF ENTITIES RECEIVING FED-**
20 **ERAL FUNDING**” and inserting “**DISCLOSURE OF**
21 **FEDERAL FUNDING**”;

22 (2) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and

24 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (7), respectively;

1 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
2 following new paragraph (2):

3 “(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ‘Federal
4 agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘Executive
5 agency’ under section 105 of title 5, United States
6 Code.”;

7 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3), as re-
8 designated by subparagraph (A), the following
9 new paragraphs:

10 “(4) FEDERAL FUNDS.—The term ‘Federal
11 funds’ means any funds that are made available to
12 or expended by a Federal agency.

13 “(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term ‘object class’
14 means the category assigned for purposes of the an-
15 nual budget of the President submitted under sec-
16 tion 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the
17 type of property or services purchased by the Fed-
18 eral Government.

19 “(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program
20 activity’ has the meaning given that term under sec-
21 tion 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.”; and

22 (D) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
23 subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “paragraph (2)(A)(i)” and inserting “para-
3 graph (3)(A)(i)”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
5 “paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting
6 “paragraph (3)(A)(ii)”;

7 (3) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “the Office of Manage-
10 ment and Budget” and inserting “the Sec-
11 retary of the Treasury” each place it ap-
12 pears;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (F)—

14 (I) in clause (i), by redesignating
15 subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa)
16 and (bb), respectively;

17 (II) by redesignating clauses (i)
18 and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II);
19 and

20 (III) by striking the period at the
21 end of subclause (II) as so redesi-
22 gnated and inserting “; and”;

23 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
24 (A) through (G) as clauses (i) through

1 (vii), respectively, and adjusting the mar-
2 gin accordingly;

3 (iv) by striking “for each Federal
4 award—” and inserting the following: “for
5 all Federal funds—

6 “(A) for each Federal agency, component
7 of a Federal agency, appropriations account,
8 program activity, and object class (including
9 any subcomponent of an object class), and other
10 accounts or data as appropriate—

11 “(i) the amount of budget authority
12 available;

13 “(ii) the amount obligated;

14 “(iii) the amount of outlays;

15 “(iv) the amount of any Federal funds
16 reprogrammed or transferred; and

17 “(v) the amount of expired and unex-
18 pired unobligated balances; and

19 “(B) for each Federal award—”; and

20 (v) in subparagraph (B)(iii), as so
21 designated by this subparagraph, by insert-
22 ing “, which shall be assigned a unique
23 identifier,” after “information on the
24 award”;

25 (B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking “The Director of the
2 Office of Management and Budget” and
3 inserting “The Secretary of the Treasury”;
4 and

5 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
6 serting “the Secretary”;

7 (C) in paragraph (4)—

8 (i) by striking “the Director of the
9 Office of Management and Budget” and
10 inserting “the Secretary of the Treasury”;
11 and

12 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
13 serting “the Secretary”, each place it ap-
14 pears; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(5) APPLICATION OF DATA STANDARDS.—The
17 Secretary of the Treasury shall apply the data
18 standards established under subsection (e) to all
19 data collection, data dissemination, and data publi-
20 cation required under this section.

21 “(6) DATA FEED TO RECOVERY ACCOUNT-
22 ABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD.—The Sec-
23 retary of the Treasury shall provide the data de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) to the Recovery Account-
25 ability and Transparency Board so that it can be in-

1 cluded in the Recovery Operations Center described
2 in subsection (h).”;

3 (4) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
6 graph (A), by striking “and Grants.gov”
7 and inserting “Grants.gov, the Payment
8 Automation Manager and Financial Infor-
9 mation Repository and other data or data-
10 bases from the Department of the Treas-
11 ury, the MAX Information System of the
12 Office of Management and Budget, and
13 other data from Federal agencies collected
14 and identified by the Office of Manage-
15 ment and Budget”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding
17 “and” at the end; and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(C) specify such search shall be confined
21 to Federal funds;”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the
23 Payment Automation Manager and Financial
24 Information Repository and other data or data-
25 bases from the Department of the Treasury, the

1 MAX Information System of the Office of Man-
2 agement and Budget, other data from Federal
3 agencies collected and identified by the Office of
4 Management and Budget,” after “Grants.gov
5 website,”;

6 (C) in paragraph (4)—

7 (i) by striking “shall be updated not
8 later” and inserting the following: “shall
9 be updated—

10 “(A) not later”; and

11 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(B) not less than once each quarter with
14 information relating to Federal funds;”;

15 (D) in paragraph (5)—

16 (i) by inserting “Federal funds and”
17 before “Federal awards” the first place it
18 appears;

19 (ii) by striking “subsection
20 (a)(2)(A)(i) and those described in sub-
21 section (a)(2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “sub-
22 section (a)(3)(A)(i) and those described in
23 subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)”;

24 (iii) by striking the period at the end
25 and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for
3 the categories described in paragraphs (1) through
4 (5) without double-counting data; and

5 “(7) shall permit all information published
6 under this section to be downloaded in bulk.”;

7 (5) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and
8 (g) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

9 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing new subsections:

11 “(e) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY REQUIRE-
12 MENTS FOR DATA STANDARDS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
14 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the
15 Office of Management and Budget, the Adminis-
16 trator of General Services, and the heads of Federal
17 agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial
18 data standards for Federal funds, which shall—

19 “(A) include common data elements, such
20 as codes, unique award identifiers, and fields,
21 for financial and payment information required
22 to be reported by Federal agencies and entities
23 receiving Federal funds, including identifiers for
24 Federal awards and entities receiving Federal
25 awards;

1 “(B) to the extent reasonable and prac-
2 ticable, ensure interoperability and incor-
3 porate—

4 “(i) common data elements developed
5 and maintained by an international vol-
6 untary consensus standards body, as de-
7 fined by the Office of Management and
8 Budget, such as the International Organi-
9 zation for Standardization;

10 “(ii) common data elements developed
11 and maintained by Federal agencies with
12 authority over contracting and financial as-
13 sistance, such as the Federal Acquisition
14 Regulatory Council; and

15 “(iii) common data elements devel-
16 oped and maintained by accounting stand-
17 ards organizations; and

18 “(C) include data reporting standards
19 that—

20 “(i) incorporate a widely accepted,
21 nonproprietary, searchable, platform-inde-
22 pendent computer-readable format;

23 “(ii) are consistent with and imple-
24 ment applicable accounting principles;

1 “(iii) are capable of being continually
2 upgraded as necessary;

3 “(iv) are structured to specifically
4 support the reporting of financial and per-
5 formance-related data, such as that any
6 data produced, regardless of reporting
7 need or software used for creation or con-
8 sumption, is consistent and comparable
9 across reporting situations;

10 “(v) establish, for each data point, a
11 standard method of conveying the report-
12 ing period, reporting entity, unit of meas-
13 ure, and other associated attributes; and

14 “(vi) incorporate nonproprietary
15 standards in effect on the date of enact-
16 ment of the Digital Accountability and
17 Transparency Act of 2013.

18 “(2) DEADLINES.—

19 “(A) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the
20 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of
21 the Office of Management and Budget, shall
22 issue guidance on the data standards estab-
23 lished under paragraph (1) to Federal agencies
24 not later than 1 year after the date of enact-

1 ment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
2 parency Act of 2013.

3 “(B) WEBSITE.—Not later than 1 year
4 after the date on which the guidance under
5 clause (i) is issued, the Secretary of the Treas-
6 ury shall ensure that the website required under
7 this section makes data publicly available in ac-
8 cordance with the data standards established
9 under paragraph (1).

10 “(C) AGENCIES.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date on which the guidance under sub-
12 paragraph (A) is issued, each Federal agency
13 shall collect, report, and maintain data in ac-
14 cordance with the data standards established
15 under paragraph (1).

16 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of the
17 Treasury shall consult with public and private stake-
18 holders in establishing data standards under this
19 subsection.

20 “(f) CONSOLIDATED RECIPIENT FINANCIAL RE-
21 PORTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and
22 Budget shall—

23 “(1) review the financial reporting required by
24 Federal agencies for Federal award recipients to
25 consolidate financial reporting and reduce duplica-

1 tive financial reporting and compliance costs for re-
2 cipients;

3 “(2) request input from Federal award recipi-
4 ents to reduce duplicative financial reporting, espe-
5 cially from State and local governments and institu-
6 tions of higher education;

7 “(3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
8 actment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
9 parency Act of 2013, provide guidance to the heads
10 of Federal agencies regarding how to simplify the re-
11 porting requirements for Federal award recipients to
12 consolidate financial reporting, reduce duplicative re-
13 porting, and reduce compliance costs, as appro-
14 priate; and

15 “(4) not later than 18 months after the date of
16 enactment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
17 parency Act of 2013, submit to Congress a report
18 regarding any legislative action required to consoli-
19 date, streamline, or reduce the cost of reporting re-
20 quirements for Federal award recipients.

21 “(g) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability
24 and Transparency Act of 2013, and every 2 years
25 thereafter until the date that is 6 years after such

1 date of enactment, the Inspector General of each
2 Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller
3 General of the United States, shall review a sam-
4 pling of the data submitted under this Act by the
5 agency, and shall submit to Congress and make pub-
6 licly available a report on the completeness, timeli-
7 ness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and
8 the implementation and use of consistent data
9 standards by the Federal agency.

10 “(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
12 after the date of enactment of the Digital Ac-
13 countability and Transparency Act of 2013, and
14 every 2 years thereafter until the date that is
15 6 years after such date of enactment, and after
16 review of the reports submitted under para-
17 graph (1), the Comptroller General of the
18 United States shall submit to Congress and
19 make publicly available a report on the com-
20 pleteness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of
21 the data submitted under this Act by each Fed-
22 eral agency and the implementation and use of
23 consistent data standards by each Federal
24 agency.

1 “(B) RANKING.—The Comptroller General
2 of the United States shall make available a
3 ranking of Federal agencies regarding data
4 quality, accuracy, and compliance with this Act.

5 “(h) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANS-
6 PARENCY BOARD.—

7 “(1) RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS.—The Re-
8 covery Accountability and Transparency Board shall
9 develop and test information technology resources
10 and oversight mechanisms to enhance the trans-
11 parency of and detect and remediate waste, fraud,
12 and abuse in Federal spending for Inspectors Gen-
13 eral.

14 “(2) WEBSITE.—The Recovery Accountability
15 and Transparency Board shall maintain a website
16 informing the public of its activities to identify
17 waste, fraud, and abuse and increase transparency
18 of Federal funds to provide support for Inspectors
19 General.

20 “(3) RECOVERY OPERATIONS CENTER.—The
21 Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
22 shall establish and maintain a Recovery Operations
23 Center as a government-wide Internet-based data ac-
24 cess system to carry out the functions described in
25 paragraph (4).

1 “(4) FUNCTIONS OF THE RECOVERY OPER-
2 ATIONS CENTER.—The functions referred to in para-
3 graph (3) are the following:

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Recovery Oper-
5 ations Center shall incorporate—

6 “(i) all information described in sub-
7 section (b)(1);

8 “(ii) other information maintained by
9 Federal, State, local, and foreign govern-
10 ment agencies; and

11 “(iii) other commercially and publicly
12 available information.

13 “(B) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The Recovery
14 Operations Center shall be designed and oper-
15 ated to carry out the following functions:

16 “(i) Combine information described in
17 subsection (b)(1) with other compilations
18 of information, including those listed in
19 subparagraph (A).

20 “(ii) Permit agencies, in accordance
21 with applicable law, to detect and reme-
22 diate waste, fraud, and abuse.”.

1 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE CONSOLIDATED RE-**
2 **CIPIENT REPORTING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Recovery Accountability
5 and Transparency Board, in consultation with the Sec-
6 retary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of
7 Management and Budget, shall establish a pilot program
8 relating to reporting by recipients of Federal funds (in this
9 section referred to as the “pilot program”) for the purpose
10 of increasing financial transparency to—

- 11 (1) display the full cycle of Federal funds;
12 (2) improve the accuracy of Federal financial
13 data; and
14 (3) develop recommendations for reducing re-
15 porting required of recipients of Federal funds by
16 consolidating and automating financial reporting re-
17 quirements across the Federal Government.

18 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

- 19 (1) include a combination of recipients of Fed-
20 eral contracts, grants, and subawards, the aggregate
21 value of which is not less than \$1,000,000,000;
22 (2) include a diverse group of recipients of Fed-
23 eral awards; and
24 (3) to the extent practicable, include recipients
25 that receive Federal awards from multiple programs
26 across multiple agencies.

1 (c) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—Each recipient of Federal funds participating in
3 the pilot program shall submit to the Recovery Account-
4 ability and Transparency Board reports on the finances
5 of the selected Federal awards.

6 (d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—All the infor-
7 mation collected by the Recovery Accountability and
8 Transparency Board under the pilot program shall be
9 made publicly available and searchable on the website es-
10 tablished under section 2 of the Federal Funding Account-
11 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101
12 note).

13 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
14 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
15 the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board es-
16 tablishes the pilot program.

17 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
18 on which the pilot program terminates under subsection
19 (e), the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
20 shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget, the
21 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
22 fairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and
23 Government Reform of the House of Representatives a re-
24 port on the pilot program, which shall include—

1 (1) a description of financial data collected
2 under the pilot program, the accuracy of the data
3 provided, and the cost to collect the data from re-
4 cipients; and

5 (2) recommendations for—

6 (A) consolidating some or all aspects of
7 Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs
8 to recipients of Federal funds;

9 (B) automating some or all aspects of Fed-
10 eral financial reporting to increase efficiency
11 and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal
12 funds; and

13 (C) improving financial transparency.

14 (g) GOVERNMENT-WIDE IMPLEMENTATION.—Not
15 later than 90 days after the date on which the Office of
16 Management and Budget receives the report required by
17 subsection (f), the Director of the Office of Management
18 and Budget shall determine whether to authorize the Re-
19 covery Accountability and Transparency Board to extend
20 the recipient reporting requirements of the pilot program
21 to all Federal funds. The Recovery Accountability and
22 Transparency Board shall begin requiring Government-
23 wide recipient reporting at the start of the fiscal year that
24 commences after the fiscal year during which such author-
25 ization is granted, and under such terms and conditions

1 that the Board shall determine, in consultation with the
2 Director.

3 **SEC. 5. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

4 Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
5 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 3. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

8 “Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to
9 the public or to any person without an identifiable need
10 to know—

11 “(1) information protected under section 552 of
12 title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the
13 ‘Freedom of Information Act’); or

14 “(2) information protected under section 552a
15 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as
16 the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), or section 6103 of the
17 Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

18 **SEC. 6. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF**
19 **2009 AMENDMENTS.**

20 Division A of Public Law 111–5 is amended—

21 (1) in section 1501 of title XV, by striking
22 paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

23 “(4) COVERED FUNDS.—The term ‘covered
24 funds’—

1 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
2 (B), means any funds that are expended or ob-
3 ligated from appropriations made under this
4 Act; and

5 “(B) for purposes of sections 1522 and
6 1524, means funds that are expended or obli-
7 gated by an agency from appropriations made
8 under this or any other Act.”;

9 (2) in section 1512 of title XV, by adding at
10 the end the following:

11 “(i) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
12 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”;

13 (3) in section 1523 of title XV, by adding at
14 the end the following:

15 “(d) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
16 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”;

17 (4) in section 1526 of title XV, by adding at
18 the end the following:

19 “(e) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
20 shall expire on December 30, 2013.”; and

21 (5) in section 1530 of title XV, by striking
22 “September 30, 2013.” and inserting “September
23 30, 2017.”.

1 **SEC. 7. DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013**
2 **AMENDMENTS.**

3 Division A of Public Law 113–2 is amended in sec-
4 tion 904(d)—

5 (1) by striking “for purposes related to the im-
6 pact of Hurricane Sandy”;

7 (2) by striking “related to the impact of Hurri-
8 cane Sandy” after “receiving appropriations”; and

9 (3) by striking “related to funds appropriated
10 for the impact of Hurricane Sandy” after “on its ac-
11 tivities”.

12 **SEC. 8. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FI-**
13 **NANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND**
14 **PLANS.**

15 Section 3512(a) of title 31, United States Code, is
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and make
18 available on the website described under section
19 1122 of this title” after “appropriate committees of
20 the Congress”;

21 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)(vi), by inserting “, sys-
22 tem development, financial management workforce
23 development, related risk assessment and mitigation
24 for the Federal Government as a whole, related risk
25 assessment and mitigation for executive agencies,

1 development of capacity to prevent and detect
2 fraud,” after “equipment acquisitions”; and

3 (3) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(C) Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
6 ment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act
7 of 2013, and every 90 days thereafter, the Director shall
8 make available on the website described under section
9 1122 of this title a report regarding—

10 (i) specific goals for the most recent full fiscal
11 year, the fiscal year during which the report is sub-
12 mitted, and the fiscal year following the year during
13 which the report is submitted that are necessary
14 steps toward implementing the Federal Funding Ac-
15 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31
16 U.S.C. 6101 note) fully and in an effective, efficient,
17 and accurate manner; and

18 (ii) the status and progress achieved toward
19 each goal described in clause (i), including any
20 changes to the cost, schedule, or performance base-
21 lines of achieving each goal, using earned value man-
22 agement where appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 9. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR CONFERENCE**
2 **AND TRAVEL SPENDING.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 57 of title 5, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5711
5 the following:

6 **“§ 5712. Limits and transparency for conference and**
7 **travel spending**

8 “(a) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND SPENDING
9 LIMITS.—

10 “(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE
11 MATERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public
12 website of that agency detailed information on any
13 presentation made by any employee of that agency
14 at a conference (except to the extent the head of an
15 agency excludes such information for reasons of na-
16 tional security or information described under sec-
17 tion 552(b)) including—

18 “(A) the prepared text of any verbal pres-
19 entation made; and

20 “(B) any visual, digital, video, or audio
21 materials presented, including photographs,
22 slides, and audio-visual recordings.

23 “(2) LIMITS ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CON-
24 FERENCE.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
26 under subparagraph (B), an agency may not

1 expend more than \$500,000 to support a single
2 conference.

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The head of an agency
4 may waive the limitation under subparagraph
5 (A) for a specific conference after making a de-
6 termination that the expenditure is justified as
7 the most cost-effective option to achieve a com-
8 pelling purpose. The head of an agency shall
9 submit to the appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees a report on any waiver granted under
11 this subparagraph, including the justification
12 for such waiver.

13 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
14 in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude
15 an agency from receiving financial support or
16 other assistance from a private entity to pay or
17 defray the costs of a conference the total cost
18 of which exceeds \$500,000.

19 “(b) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RULE.—An
20 agency may not pay the travel expenses for more than 50
21 employees of that agency who are stationed in the United
22 States, for any international conference, unless the Sec-
23 retary of State determines that attendance for such em-
24 ployees is in the national interest, or the head of the agen-
25 cy determines that attendance for such employees is crit-

1 ical to the agency’s mission. The Secretary of State and
2 the head of an agency shall submit to the appropriate con-
3 gressional committees a report on any waiver granted
4 under this subsection, including the justification for such
5 waiver.

6 “(c) REPORTING ON TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE EX-
7 PENSES REQUIRED.—At the beginning of each quarter of
8 each fiscal year, each agency shall post on the public
9 website of that agency a report on each conference that
10 costs more than \$10,000 for which the agency paid travel
11 expenses during the preceding 3 months that includes—

12 “(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency,
13 including travel, lodging, and meal expenses, and
14 any other agency expenditures to otherwise support
15 the conference;

16 “(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

17 “(3) the location of the conference;

18 “(4) the date of the conference;

19 “(5) a brief explanation of how the participa-
20 tion of employees from such agency at the con-
21 ference advanced the mission of the agency;

22 “(6) the title of any employee, or any individual
23 who is not a Federal employee, whose travel ex-
24 penses or other conference expenses were paid by the
25 agency;

1 “(7) the total number of individuals whose trav-
2 el expenses or other conference expenses were paid
3 by the agency; and

4 “(8) in the case of a conference for which that
5 agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

6 “(A) describes the cost to the agency of se-
7 lecting the specific conference venue;

8 “(B) describes why the location was se-
9 lected, including a justification for such selec-
10 tion;

11 “(C) demonstrates the cost efficiency of
12 the location;

13 “(D) provides a cost benefit analysis of
14 holding a conference rather than conducting a
15 teleconference; and

16 “(E) describes any financial support or
17 other assistance from a private entity used to
18 pay or defray the costs of the conference, and
19 for each case where such support or assistance
20 was used, the head of the agency shall include
21 a certification that there is no conflict of inter-
22 est resulting from such support or assistance.

23 “(d) **FORMAT AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—**
24 Each report posted on the public website under subsection
25 (c) shall—

1 “(1) be in a searchable electronic format; and

2 “(2) remain on that website for at least 5 years
3 after the date of posting.

4 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
6 meaning given that term under section 5701, but
7 does not include the government of the District of
8 Columbia.

9 “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’
10 means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or
11 event that—

12 “(A) is held for consultation, education,
13 discussion, or training; and

14 “(B) is not held entirely at a Government
15 facility.

16 “(3) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The term
17 ‘international conference’ means a conference occur-
18 ring outside the United States attended by rep-
19 resentatives of—

20 “(A) the Government of the United States;
21 and

22 “(B) any foreign government, international
23 organization, or foreign nongovernmental orga-
24 nization.”.

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
2 The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
4 ing to section 5711 the following:

“5712. Limits and transparency for conference and travel spending.”.

5 (c) ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSE LIMITS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each of fiscal
7 years 2014 through 2018, an agency (as defined
8 under section 5712(e) of title 5, United States Code,
9 as added by subsection (a)) may not make, or obli-
10 gate to make, expenditures for travel expenses, in an
11 aggregate amount greater than 70 percent of the ag-
12 gregate amount of such expenses for fiscal year
13 2010.

14 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—The agency may exclude
15 certain travel expenses from the limitation under
16 paragraph (1) only if the agency head determines
17 that inclusion of such expenses would undermine na-
18 tional security, international diplomacy, health and
19 safety inspections, law enforcement, or site visits re-
20 quired for oversight or investigatory purposes.

21 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—In each of fiscal
22 years 2014 through 2018, the head of each agency
23 shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and
24 Government Reform of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-

1 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report con-
2 taining—

3 (A) the justification for any expenses ex-
4 cluded (under paragraph (2)) from the limita-
5 tion under paragraph (1); and

6 (B) the positive or negative impacts, if
7 any, of the limitation under paragraph (1) on
8 the agency's mission, cost-effectiveness, effi-
9 ciency, and ability to perform core functions.

10 (4) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

11 (A) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than
12 January 1, 2014, and after consultation with
13 the Administrator of General Services and the
14 Director of the Administrative Office of the
15 United States Courts, the Director of the Office
16 of Management and Budget shall establish
17 guidelines for the determination of what ex-
18 penses constitute travel expenses for purposes
19 of this subsection. The guidelines shall identify
20 specific expenses, and classes of expenses, that
21 are to be treated as travel expenses.

22 (B) EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY TRAVEL.—

23 The guidelines required under subparagraph
24 (A) shall exclude military travel expenses in de-
25 termining what expenses constitute travel ex-

1 penses. Military travel expenses shall include
2 travel expenses involving military combat, the
3 training or deployment of uniformed military
4 personnel, and such other travel expenses as de-
5 termined by the Director of the Office of Man-
6 agement and Budget, in consultation with the
7 Administrator of General Services and the Di-
8 rector of the Administrative Office of the
9 United States Courts.

Passed the House of Representatives November 18,
2013.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.