

104TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 390

Concerning the prohibition on the use of United States passports for travel to Lebanon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 1996

Mr. HOKE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Concerning the prohibition on the use of United States passports for travel to Lebanon.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution shall be known as the “Freedom of
4 Travel to Lebanon Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The House of Representatives finds that—

7 (1) on January 26, 1987, the Department of
8 State issued a prohibition on the use of United
9 States passports for travel to Lebanon, creating a
10 ban on travel to Lebanon by United States citizens;

1 (2) the ban on travel to Lebanon was instituted
2 during a time of civil war, anarchy, and general law-
3 lessness in Lebanon, when the safety and well-being
4 of United States citizens were at serious risk, Amer-
5 ican hostages were being taken, and hundreds of
6 lives were being lost due to acts of terrorism;

7 (3) the civil war in Lebanon ended in 1990, and
8 the last United States hostage held in Lebanon was
9 freed on December 4, 1991;

10 (4) there has been no incident of violence
11 against any United States citizen in Lebanon since
12 December 4, 1991;

13 (5) the United States and Lebanon have made
14 special joint efforts to agree upon and sign inter-
15 national conventions against terrorism which would
16 address crimes committed against United States citi-
17 zens in Lebanon during the civil war;

18 (6) security in Lebanon has improved demon-
19 strably since the end of the civil war due to, among
20 other efforts, the exchange of security delegations
21 between the United States and Lebanon to monitor
22 ongoing progress on security;

23 (7) the United States maintains an economic
24 and military assistance program in Lebanon;

1 (8) it is estimated that more than 45,000
2 United States citizens, including Members of Con-
3 gress, traveled to Lebanon in the past 4 years, either
4 in circumvention of the ban on travel to Lebanon
5 through the use of passports from countries other
6 than the United States by dual nationals, or under
7 United States regulations which permit travel in ur-
8 gent humanitarian cases;

9 (9) people in the United States of Lebanese de-
10 scend who have families residing in Lebanon and
11 who are not willing to defy the ban on travel to Leb-
12 anon are seriously harmed by this ban and are pre-
13 vented from being reunited with their loved ones in
14 Lebanon;

15 (10) the United States has eased certain re-
16 strictions with respect to the ban on travel to Leb-
17 anon to permit airline tickets to be issued for travel
18 directly from the United States to Beirut by nation-
19 als from countries other than the United States and
20 United States citizens who have obtained the appro-
21 priate waiver from the Department of State;

22 (11) the Lebanese Government has initiated a
23 10-year, \$18,000,000,000 reconstruction effort, and
24 from 1993 through 1995 awarded more than 500
25 contracts worth more than \$2,700,000,000 to busi-

1 ness firms for development, reconstruction, and con-
2 sulting projects;

3 (12) the ban on travel to Lebanon creates a
4 major impediment to United States firms that wish
5 to bid for contracts in Lebanon;

6 (13) it is in the national interest of the United
7 States for United States businesses to participate in
8 the reconstruction of Lebanon, since such participa-
9 tion will bring economic benefit to the United States;

10 (14) it is in the national interest of the United
11 States for there to be an independent, politically and
12 economically self-reliant Lebanon which is a stabiliz-
13 ing state in the region;

14 (15) it is in the national interest of the United
15 States to assist actively the Government of Lebanon
16 to attain the principles of democracy in the region;

17 (16) travel advisories, rather than travel bans,
18 are in effect for travel to countries such as Bosnia,
19 Rwanda, Haiti, Colombia, and Peru, in which
20 United States citizens have historically experienced
21 as serious a risk to their safety as they do in travel-
22 ing to Lebanon; and

23 (17) in determining whether to restrict the use
24 of United States passports for travel to any country,

1 the Secretary of State should apply consistent cri-
2 teria.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

4 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

5 (1) the Secretary of State should change the
6 prohibition on the use of United States passports for
7 travel to Lebanon to a travel advisory because Amer-
8 ican citizens have been safely traveling to Lebanon
9 since 1991, and it appears that the risk posed to the
10 safety of American citizens is no greater in Lebanon
11 than it is in other countries for which the United
12 States is maintaining travel advisories;

13 (2) the Secretary of State should identify those
14 conditions in Lebanon that pose a risk to United
15 States citizens and provide suggestions for the Gov-
16 ernment of Lebanon to ameliorate those risks; and

17 (3) if deciding to renew the ban on travel to
18 Lebanon, the Secretary of State should—

19 (A) create a new waiver category to permit
20 exceptions for United States business personnel
21 who wish to travel to Lebanon for business pur-
22 poses; and

23 (B) expand the present humanitarian waiv-
24 er provisions to permit American citizens of

1 Lebanese descent to travel to Lebanon for fam-
2 ily reunification purposes.

3 **SEC. 4. TRANSMITTAL.**

4 The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
5 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of
6 State.

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