

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5965

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for an exemption of reimbursement for certain travel to return to the United States, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. MANNING) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for an exemption of reimbursement for certain travel to return to 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. EXEMPTION OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR CER-**  
2 **TAIN TRAVEL TO RETURN TO THE UNITED**  
3 **STATES.**

4 Section 4 of the State Department Basic Authorities  
5 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2671) is amended by adding at  
6 the end the following:

7 “(e) In the case of loans made after October 6, 2023,  
8 for purposes of evacuations from Israel in response to the  
9 Hamas terrorist attacks of October 2023, the reimburse-  
10 ment requirements under subsections (b)(2)(A)(ii) and (d)  
11 shall not apply.”.

12 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
14 United States shall submit to Congress a report on any  
15 commercial airfare price manipulation and instances of  
16 price gouging by airlines relating to the evacuation of  
17 United States citizens from Israel after the Hamas attacks  
18 in October 2023.

19 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-  
20 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

21 (1) A comparison of airfare ticket prices before  
22 the attacks and after the attacks, disaggregated  
23 by—

24 (A) air carriers;

25 (B) flights originating in Israel, Turkey,  
26 Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Greece; and

1 (C) airports designated as primary evacu-  
2 ation destinations by the Department of State.

3 (2) A proposal to provide for a voluntary survey  
4 opportunity for individuals described in subsection  
5 (a) to submit information regarding instances of  
6 such price manipulation.

7 (3) An analysis of whether any actions regard-  
8 ing price manipulation or other changes violated  
9 United States law.

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