

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2794

To require the heads of agencies to establish a policy with respect to the deactivation of charge cards of employees separating from the agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the heads of agencies to establish a policy with respect to the deactivation of charge cards of employees separating from the agency, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Deactivating and
5 Eliminating Cards Linked to Inactive or Nonexistent Em-
6 ployees Act” or the “DECLINE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEACTIVATION OF CHARGE CARDS UPON EM-**
8 **PLOYEE SEPARATION.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 5701 of title 5,
3 United States Code.

4 (2) CHARGE CARD.—The term “charge card”
5 means a purchase card, travel card, or other form of
6 Federal Government payment card—

7 (A) issued by an agency; and

8 (B) assigned to an employee of an agency.

9 (3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered
10 individual”—

11 (A) means an individual who is discharged,
12 separates, retires, or otherwise ceases employ-
13 ment with an agency; and

14 (B) includes an individual who, before the
15 discharge, separation, or cease of employment
16 described in subparagraph (A), held—

17 (i) a position described in section
18 5312, 5313, 5314, or 5315 of title 5,
19 United States Code;

20 (ii) a noncareer Senior Executive
21 Service position, as defined in section
22 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

23 (iii) a position in the executive branch
24 of a confidential or policy-determining
25 character described in schedule C of sub-

1 part C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Fed-
2 eral Regulations.

3 (b) POLICY.—Not later than 30 days after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the chief financial officer or the
5 functional equivalent officer of each agency, in consulta-
6 tion with the chief human capital officer or the functional
7 equivalent of each agency, shall establish and implement
8 a policy requiring that, as part of the official separation
9 process from the agency of a covered individual and with
10 respect to any charge card assigned to the covered indi-
11 vidual—

12 (1) the covered individual returns the charge
13 card to the agency;

14 (2) personnel of the agency physically secure
15 the charge card;

16 (3) the covered individual remove the charge
17 card from any digital wallet or electronic device
18 owned by the covered individual or issued to the cov-
19 ered individual in connection with the employment of
20 the covered individual at the agency;

21 (4) appropriate agency personnel immediately
22 deactivate the charge card and close or suspend the
23 account associated with the charge card in accord-
24 ance with agency procedures; and

1 (5) appropriate agency personnel report the
2 charge card to the issuing financial institution as no
3 longer valid for use or reissuance in connection with
4 the covered individual.

5 (c) GAO REVIEW OF AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—Not
6 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
7 and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland
9 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the
10 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the
11 House of Representatives a report that includes—

12 (1) the number of charge cards issued and de-
13 activated by each agency;

14 (2) the extent to which agencies have estab-
15 lished internal controls to monitor charge card use
16 and address misuse, fraud, or redundant card
17 issuance;

18 (3) the status of the implementation of sub-
19 section (b) by each agency;

20 (4) the total amount each agency paid in charge
21 card late fees during the preceding 1-year period;
22 and

23 (5) the extent to which agencies submit re-
24 quired management reports through the electronic
25 access system of the bank with which the agency has

- 1 a contract, including a summary of the report data
- 2 of selected agencies, such as account activity, dis-
- 3 putes, and unusual spending patterns.

