

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 199

To provide for greater accountability for Presidential appointees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

A BILL

To provide for greater accountability for Presidential appointees.

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 “Presidential Appointee
5 Accountability Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each fiscal year, and
8 at the end of a term of appointment, each Presidential
9 appointee shall submit to the Committee on Government
10 Reform and Oversight of the United States House of Rep-
11 resentatives, and to the office of the inspector general of

1 the agency involved, a report listing the dates, events, and
2 amounts of appropriated funds expended by the appointee
3 for—

- 4 (1) entertainment offered by the appointee;
- 5 (2) travel and lodging of the appointee; and
- 6 (3) limousine services for the appointee in the
7 District of Columbia and its environs.

8 (b) INVESTIGATION BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The
9 inspector general of an agency shall investigate the report
10 required under subsection (a) for misappropriation of Gov-
11 ernment funds.

12 (c) REIMBURSEMENT AND PENALTY.—If the inspec-
13 tor general of an agency finds that a political appointee
14 misappropriated Government funds, such appointee
15 shall—

- 16 (1) repay the amount of such expenditure; and
- 17 (2) pay a civil penalty of 20 percent, plus inter-
18 est, of the amount of such expenditure not to exceed
19 \$200,000.

20 **SEC. 3. TRAVEL NOTIFICATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
22 (c), not later than 1 week prior to departure, a Presi-
23 dential appointee shall submit to the Committee on Gov-
24 ernment Reform and Oversight of the United States

1 House of Representatives, and to the office of the inspec-
2 tor general of the agency involved, a statement that de-
3 scribes the purpose of the travel.

4 (b) CONTENTS OF STATEMENT.—The statement re-
5 quired under subsection (a) shall contain—

6 (1) an itinerary of the travel;

7 (2) a list of—

8 (A) a Presidential appointee’s guests trav-
9 elling at Government expense; and

10 (B) such appointee’s guests to an event
11 sponsored by the Government during the course
12 of the trip; and

13 (3) an estimate of the cost of the travel to the
14 Government.

15 (c) EXCEPTION.—In the case of emergency travel, the
16 statement required under subsection (a) shall be submit-
17 ted not later than 15 days after the conclusion of such
18 travel.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 As used in this Act—

21 (1) the term “misappropriation” with respect to
22 Government funds means an expenditure of agency
23 funds—

24 (A) in violation of law;

1 (B) for the hire, on a contract basis, of a
2 consultant for media, press, or public relations;
3 or

4 (C) for a gift for distribution to a person
5 who travels with a Presidential appointee at
6 Government expense;

7 (2) the term “Presidential appointee” means a
8 person appointed by the President to perform official
9 agency duties in the service of the Government;

10 (3) the term “agency” means an Executive
11 agency as that term is defined by section 105 of title
12 5, United States Code;

13 (4) the term “emergency travel” means travel
14 necessitated by an event which—

15 (A) occurs less than 1 week prior to depar-
16 ture;

17 (B) gives rise to disaster relief assistance
18 provided by an agency; or

19 (C) poses a threat to the national security
20 of the United States;

21 (5) the term “entertainment” means a recep-
22 tion or representation activity, including any amuse-
23 ment, diversion, or social activity and associated
24 costs such as tickets, meals, rentals, transportation,
25 and gratuities; and

1 (6) the term “limousine service” means luxury
2 automobile transportation, driven by a chauffeur,
3 which seats fewer than 15 passengers, but does not
4 include a taxicab.

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