

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 283

To require the approval by the head of an agency for any conference costing more than \$25,000, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2013

Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself, Mr. BARLETTA, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. DESJARLAIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require the approval by the head of an agency for any conference costing more than \$25,000, 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 “Agency Conferences
5 and Conventions Operating Under Necessary Trans-
6 parency Act of 2013” or the “ACCOUNT Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. AGENCY CONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

8 (a) AGENCY HEAD APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Any con-
9 ference costing more than \$25,000 must be approved in

1 writing by the head of the relevant agency before the date
2 on which such conference occurs. The head of an agency
3 may only approve such conference if the head determines
4 that the conference is necessary to the core mission of the
5 agency.

6 (b) PUBLICATION OF STATEMENT REQUIRED.—Not
7 later than 30 days after the date of a conference described
8 in subsection (a), the head of the agency shall publish on
9 the website of such agency a summary of the conference
10 that includes the purpose and total cost of the conference
11 and the cost per employee that attended the conference.

12 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Decem-
13 ber 31 of each year, the head of each agency shall submit
14 a report, for the previous fiscal year, to the relevant com-
15 mittees of the Congress that includes a list of each con-
16 ference approved pursuant to subsection (a) and with re-
17 gard to each such conference, the following:

- 18 (1) A summary of the purposes and goals.
- 19 (2) A description of the conference activities
20 that accomplish such purposes and goals.
- 21 (3) The total cost.
- 22 (4) The cost per government employee.

23 (d) EXCLUSION.—The requirements of this section
24 shall not apply—

- 25 (1) to the armed forces;

1 (2) with respect to law enforcement activity;
2 and

3 (3) with respect to any conference that the head
4 of the agency determines is classified or related to
5 national security.

6 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
8 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
9 United States Code.

10 (2) ARMED FORCES.—The term “armed forces”
11 has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of
12 title 5, United States Code.

13 (3) CONFERENCE.—The term “conference”
14 means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or
15 event to which 20 or more employees travel at least
16 25 miles to attend, that—

17 (A) is held for consultation, education, dis-
18 cussion, or training; and

19 (B) is not held entirely at a Government
20 facility.

21 (4) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the
22 meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5,
23 United States Code.

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