

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5336

To require Members of the House of Representatives to post information on their official public websites on the costs of trips taken by Members for which expenses were paid by the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or other offices of the House of Representatives, to direct the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives to maintain an online clearinghouse on its official public website of all such information for all Members, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2016

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To require Members of the House of Representatives to post information on their official public websites on the costs of trips taken by Members for which expenses were paid by the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or other offices of the House of Representatives, to direct the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives to maintain an online clearinghouse on its official public website of all such information for all Members, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Taxpayer-Funded
3 Travel Transparency Act of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF HOUSE TO POST INFOR-**
5 **MATION ON COSTS OF CERTAIN TAXPAYER-**
6 **FUNDED TRAVEL.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Member of the House
9 of Representatives shall post on the Member’s offi-
10 cial public website, and shall provide to the Com-
11 mittee on House Administration of the House of
12 Representatives—

13 (A) a description of each trip taken by the
14 Member for which transportation, lodging, or
15 related expenses were paid by the Department
16 of Defense, the Department of State, or an of-
17 fice of the House of Representatives; and

18 (B) the amounts paid by the Department
19 of Defense, the Department of State, or office
20 of the House for such expenses.

21 (2) EXCEPTION FOR MEMBERS’ REPRESENTA-
22 TIONAL ALLOWANCE.—Paragraph (1) does not apply
23 with respect to a trip taken by a Member for which
24 expenses were paid by the Members’ Representa-
25 tional Allowance of such Member.

1 (b) CLEARINGHOUSE OF INFORMATION ON COM-
 2 MITTEE WEBSITE.—The Committee on House Adminis-
 3 tration of the House of Representatives shall maintain on
 4 its official public website a clearinghouse of all of the in-
 5 formation provided to the Committee under subsection (a)
 6 by all Members of the House.

7 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Ad-
 8 ministration shall promulgate such regulations as it con-
 9 siders appropriate to carry out this section.

10 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPENSES**
 11 **INCURRED BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
 12 **AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN PAYING**
 13 **MEMBER TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR SECRETARY OF DE-
 15 FENSE.—In the case of a trip taken by a Member of the
 16 House of Representatives for which the Department of
 17 Defense pays transportation, lodging, or related expenses,
 18 the Secretary of Defense shall—

19 (1) determine the cost of the transportation,
 20 lodging, and related expenses paid with respect to
 21 the Member; and

22 (2) subject to subsection (c), provide the Mem-
 23 ber with a written statement of the expenses not
 24 later than 10 days after completion of the trip in-
 25 volved.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR SECRETARY OF STATE.—In
2 the case of a trip taken by a Member of the House of
3 Representatives for which the Department of State pays
4 transportation, lodging, or related expenses, the Secretary
5 of State shall—

6 (1) determine the cost of the transportation,
7 lodging, and related expenses paid with respect to
8 the Member; and

9 (2) subject to subsection (c), provide the Mem-
10 ber with a written statement of the expenses not
11 later than 10 days after completion of the trip in-
12 volved.

13 (c) EXCEPTION FOR DISCLOSURES AFFECTING NA-
14 TIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary of Defense may waive
15 the application of paragraph (2) of subsection (a), and the
16 Secretary of State may waive the application of paragraph
17 (2) of subsection (b), with respect to a statement of ex-
18 penses relating to a trip taken by a Member of the House
19 of Representatives if the Secretary determines that pro-
20 viding the statement of expenses may affect national secu-
21 rity.

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

23 In this Act, the term “Member of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Commis-
25 sioner to the Congress.

1 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall apply with respect to trips taken on
3 or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that
4 this Act does not apply with respect to any trip which
5 began prior to such date.

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