

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3974

To limit the use of taxpayer dollars on non-commercial flights for cabinet officials, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

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

A BILL

To limit the use of taxpayer dollars on non-commercial flights for cabinet officials, 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 “Justifiable and Effi-
5 cient Transportation Substitutes Act” or the “JETS Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS ON NON-COMMER-**
7 **CIAL FLIGHTS FOR CABINET OFFICIALS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law, beginning on the date of enactment of this
10 Act, no Federal funds appropriated or otherwise made

1 available in any fiscal year may be used for purposes of
2 paying the travel expenses of any cabinet official on a non-
3 commercial, private, chartered flight, or on any plane
4 owned, operated, chartered, rented, or leased by the Gov-
5 ernment until the date that the guidelines described in sec-
6 tion 3 have been published.

7 (b) DEFINITION OF CABINET OFFICIAL.—In this
8 Act, the term “cabinet official” means any individual occu-
9 pying a position listed in section 5312 of title 5, United
10 States Code, but does not include the Secretary of State,
11 the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense,
12 the Attorney General, or the Director of National Intel-
13 ligence.

14 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE ON TRAVEL BY CABINET OFFICIALS.**

15 (a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall cause
17 to be published in the Federal Register guidelines under
18 which travel otherwise prohibited under section 2 by a cab-
19 inet official is permissible.

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines required under
21 subsection (a) shall comply with the following:

22 (1) Scheduling requirements may not be used
23 as a basis for determining that the otherwise prohib-
24 ited travel is necessary, except—

1 (A) for travel to or from a region covered
2 by a declaration of an emergency or major dis-
3 aster pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
4 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
5 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

6 (B) for reasons of national security.

7 (2) The unavailability of commercially available
8 flights, with an accompanying written finding issued
9 on a case-by-case basis by the President or the Chief
10 of Staff to the President, may be a permissible basis
11 for determining the otherwise prohibited travel is
12 necessary. Any written finding issued under the pre-
13 ceding sentence shall be published on the General
14 Service Administration's public website within 30
15 days of issuance, except with respect to any travel
16 the purposes of which is classified.

17 (3) The guidelines may not provide for any
18 comprehensive waiver for any cabinet official.

19 **SEC. 4. DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL BY CABINET OFFICIALS.**

20 (a) DISCLOSURE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), beginning on the date the guidelines are
23 published under section 3, any travel otherwise pro-
24 hibited by section 2(a) by a cabinet official shall be

1 disclosed to the Administrator of General Services
2 on a quarterly basis.

3 (2) CLASSIFIED TRAVEL.—With respect to any
4 travel the purposes of which is classified, the travel
5 shall be disclosed within 60 days to the Permanent
6 Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of
7 Representatives, the Select Committee on Intel-
8 ligence of the Senate, the subcommittee on defense
9 of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
10 Representatives, and the subcommittee on defense of
11 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.
12 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede,
13 alter, or otherwise affect the application of section
14 101–37.408 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations,
15 or any successor regulation.

16 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish
17 detailed information, including among other pertinent in-
18 formation the justification for the mode of travel and the
19 identities of all passengers, regarding any flight disclosed
20 under subsection (a)(1) on the General Service Adminis-
21 tration’s public website not later than 30 days after the
22 date the Administrator receives such information.

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