

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4047

To provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2017

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

A BILL

To provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards.

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 “Saving Federal Dollars
5 Through Better Use of Government Purchase and Travel
6 Cards Act of 2017”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) IMPROPER PAYMENT.—The term “improper
2 payment” has the meaning given the term in section
3 2 of the Improper Payments Information Act of
4 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note).

5 (2) QUESTIONABLE TRANSACTION.—The term
6 “questionable transaction” means a charge card
7 transaction that from initial card data appears to be
8 high risk and may therefore be improper due to non-
9 compliance with applicable law, regulation or policy.

10 (3) STRATEGIC SOURCING.—The term “stra-
11 tegic sourcing” means analyzing and modifying a
12 Federal agency’s spending patterns to better lever-
13 age its purchasing power, reduce costs, and improve
14 overall performance.

15 **SEC. 3. EXPANDED USE OF DATA ANALYTICS.**

16 (a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-
18 fice of Management and Budget, in consultation with the
19 Administrator for General Services, shall develop a strat-
20 egy to expand the use of data analytics in managing gov-
21 ernment purchase and travel charge card programs. These
22 analytics may employ existing General Services Adminis-
23 tration capabilities, and may be in conjunction with agen-
24 cies’ capabilities, for the purpose of—

1 (1) identifying examples or patterns of ques-
2 tionable transactions and developing enhanced tools
3 and methods for agency use in—

4 (A) identifying questionable purchase and
5 travel card transactions; and

6 (B) recovering improper payments made
7 with purchase and travel cards;

8 (2) identifying potential opportunities for agen-
9 cies to further leverage administrative process
10 streamlining and cost reduction from purchase and
11 travel card use, including additional agency opportu-
12 nities for card-based strategic sourcing;

13 (3) developing a set of purchase and travel card
14 metrics and benchmarks for high-risk activities,
15 which shall assist agencies in identifying potential
16 emphasis areas for their purchase and travel card
17 management and oversight activities, including those
18 required by the Government Charge Card Abuse
19 Prevention Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–194); and

20 (4) developing a plan, which may be based on
21 existing capabilities, to create a library of analytics
22 tools and data sources for use by Federal agencies
23 (including inspectors general of those agencies).

1 **SEC. 4. GUIDANCE ON IMPROVING INFORMATION SHARING**
2 **TO CURB IMPROPER PAYMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-
5 fice of Management and Budget, in consultation with the
6 Administrator of General Services and the interagency
7 charge card data management group established under
8 section 5, shall issue guidance on improving information
9 sharing by government agencies for the purposes of sec-
10 tion 3(a)(1).

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The guidance issued under sub-
12 section (a) shall—

13 (1) require relevant officials at Federal agencies
14 to identify high-risk activities and communicate that
15 information to the appropriate management levels
16 within the agencies;

17 (2) require that appropriate officials at Federal
18 agencies review the reports issued by charge card-
19 issuing banks on questionable transaction activity
20 (such as purchase and travel card pre-suspension
21 and suspension reports, delinquency reports, and ex-
22 ception reports), including transactions that occur
23 with high-risk activities, and suspicious timing or
24 amounts of cash withdrawals or advances;

25 (3) provide for the appropriate sharing of infor-
26 mation related to potential questionable trans-

1 actions, fraud schemes, and high-risk activities with
2 the General Services Administration and the appro-
3 priate officials in Federal agencies;

4 (4) consider the recommendations made by In-
5 spectors General or the best practices Inspectors
6 General have identified; and

7 (5) include other requirements determined ap-
8 propriate by the Director for the purposes of car-
9 rying out this Act.

10 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY CHARGE CARD DATA MANAGEMENT**
11 **GROUP.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of General
13 Services and the Director of the Office of Management
14 and Budget shall establish a purchase and travel charge
15 card data management group to develop and share best
16 practices for the purposes described in section 3(a).

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The best practices developed under
18 subsection (a) shall—

19 (1) cover rules, edits, and task order or con-
20 tract modifications related to charge card-issuing
21 banks;

22 (2) include the review of accounts payable infor-
23 mation and purchase and travel card transaction
24 data of agencies for the purpose of identifying po-
25 tential strategic sourcing and other additional oppor-

1 tunities (such as recurring payments, utility pay-
2 ments, and grant payments) for which the charge
3 cards or related payment products could be used as
4 a payment method; and

5 (3) include other best practices as determined
6 by the Administrator and Director.

7 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The purchase and travel charge
8 card data management group shall meet regularly as de-
9 termined by the co-chairs, for a duration of three years,
10 and include those agencies as described in section 2 of the
11 Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012
12 (Public Law 112–194) and others identified by the Ad-
13 ministrator and Director.

14 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

15 (a) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION RE-
16 PORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the en-
17 actment of this Act, the Administrator for General Serv-
18 ices shall submit a report to Congress on the implementa-
19 tion of this Act, including the metrics used in determining
20 whether the analytic and benchmarking efforts have re-
21 duced, or contributed to the reduction of, questionable or
22 improper payments as well as improved utilization of card-
23 based payment products.

24 (b) AGENCY REPORTS AND CONSOLIDATED REPORT
25 TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date

1 of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal
2 agency described in section 2 of the Government Charge
3 Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–
4 194) shall submit a report to the Director of the Office
5 of Management and Budget on that agency’s activities to
6 implement this Act.

7 (c) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REPORT
8 TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Manage-
9 ment and Budget shall submit to Congress a consolidated
10 report of agency activities to implement this Act, which
11 may be included as part of another report submitted to
12 Congress by the Director.

13 (d) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL SAVINGS OPPORTUNI-
14 TIES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services
16 shall submit a report to Congress identifying and explor-
17 ing further potential savings opportunities for government
18 agencies under the Federal charge card programs. This
19 report may be combined with the report required under
20 subsection (a).

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