

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4631  
OFFERED BY MR. WALSH OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Government Spending  
3 Accountability Act of 2012” or the “GSA Act of 2012”.

**4 SEC. 2. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR TRAVEL AND  
5 CONFERENCE SPENDING.**

6 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 57 of title 5, United  
7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5711  
8 the following:

**9 “§ 5712. Limits and transparency for travel and con-  
10 ference spending**

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’  
13 means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or  
14 event to which an employee travels 25 miles or more  
15 to attend, that—

16 “(A) is held for consultation, education,  
17 discussion, or training; and

1                   “(B) is not held entirely at a Government  
2                   facility.

3                   “(2) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The term  
4                   ‘international conference’ means a conference occur-  
5                   ring outside the United States attended by rep-  
6                   resentatives of—

7                   “(A) the Government of the United States;  
8                   and

9                   “(B) any foreign government, international  
10                  organization, or foreign nongovernmental orga-  
11                  nization.

12                  “(b) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RULE.—An  
13                  agency may not pay the travel expenses for more than 50  
14                  employees of that agency who are stationed in the United  
15                  States, for any international conference, unless the Sec-  
16                  retary of State determines that attendance for such em-  
17                  ployees is in the national interest.

18                  “(c) REPORT ON TRAVEL EXPENSES REQUIRED.—  
19                  At the beginning of each quarter of each fiscal year, each  
20                  agency shall post on the public website of that agency a  
21                  report on each conference for which the agency paid travel  
22                  expenses during the preceding 3 months that includes—

23                  “(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency,  
24                  including travel expenses, and any agency expendi-  
25                  tures to otherwise support the conference;

1 “(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

2 “(3) the location of the conference;

3 “(4) in the case of a conference for which that  
4 agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

5 “(A) describes the cost to the agency of se-  
6 lecting the specific conference venue;

7 “(B) describes why the location was se-  
8 lected, including a justification for such selec-  
9 tion;

10 “(C) demonstrates the cost efficiency of  
11 the location;

12 “(D) provides a cost benefit analysis of  
13 holding a conference rather than conducting a  
14 teleconference; and

15 “(E) describes any financial support or  
16 other assistance from a private entity used to  
17 pay or defray the costs of the conference, and  
18 for each case where such support or assistance  
19 was used, the head of the agency shall include  
20 a certification that there is no conflict of inter-  
21 est resulting from such support or assistance;

22 “(5) the date of the conference;

23 “(6) a brief explanation of how the participa-  
24 tion of employees from such agency at the con-  
25 ference advanced the mission of the agency;

1           “(7) the title of any employee, or any individual  
2           who is not a Federal employee, whose travel ex-  
3           penses or other conference expenses were paid by the  
4           agency; and

5           “(8) the total number of individuals whose trav-  
6           el expenses or other conference expenses were paid  
7           by the agency.

8           “(d) **FORMAT AND PUBLICATION OF REPORT.**—Each  
9           report posted on the public website under subsection (c)  
10          shall—

11           “(1) be in a searchable electronic format; and

12           “(2) remain on that website for at least 5 years  
13          after the date of posting.”.

14          (b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—  
15          The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United  
16          States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
17          ing to section 5711 the following:

          “5712. Limits and transparency for travel and conference spending.”.

18          (c) **ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSE LIMITS.**—

19           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of each of fiscal  
20          years 2013 through 2017, an agency (as defined  
21          under section 5701 of title 5, United States Code)  
22          may not make, or obligate to make, expenditures for  
23          travel expenses, in an aggregate amount greater  
24          than 70 percent of the aggregate amount of such ex-  
25          penses for fiscal year 2010.

1 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

2 (A) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than  
3 December 31, 2012, and after consultation with  
4 the Administrator of General Services and the  
5 Director of the Administrative Office of the  
6 United States Courts, the Director of the Office  
7 of Management and Budget shall establish  
8 guidelines for the determination of what ex-  
9 penses constitute travel expenses for purposes  
10 of this subsection. The guidelines shall identify  
11 specific expenses, and classes of expenses, that  
12 are to be treated as travel expenses.

13 (B) EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY TRAVEL.—  
14 The guidelines required under subparagraph  
15 (A) shall exclude military travel expenses in de-  
16 termining what expenses constitute travel ex-  
17 penses. Military travel expenses shall include  
18 travel expenses involving military combat, the  
19 training or deployment of uniformed military  
20 personnel, and such other travel expenses as de-  
21 termined by the Director of the Office of Man-  
22 agement and Budget, in consultation with the  
23 Administrator of General Services and the Di-  
24 rector of the Administrative Office of the  
25 United States Courts.

1 (d) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND SPENDING  
2 LIMITS.—

3 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 (A) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the  
5 meaning given that term under section 5701 of  
6 title 5, United States Code.

7 (B) CONFERENCE.—The term “con-  
8 ference” has the meaning given that term under  
9 section 5712(a) of that title 5, United States  
10 Code (as added by subsection (a)).

11 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE MA-  
12 TERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public  
13 website of that agency detailed information on any  
14 presentation made by any employee of that agency  
15 at a conference (except to the extent the head of an  
16 agency excludes such information for reasons of na-  
17 tional security) including—

18 (A) the prepared text of any verbal presen-  
19 tation made; and

20 (B) any visual, digital, video, or audio ma-  
21 terials presented, including photographs, slides,  
22 and audio-visual recordings.

23 (3) LIMITS ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CON-  
24 FERENCE.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—An agency may not ex-  
2           pend more than \$500,000 to support a single  
3           conference.

4           (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
5           this paragraph shall be construed to preclude  
6           an agency from receiving financial support or  
7           other assistance from a private entity to pay or  
8           defray the costs of a conference the total cost  
9           of which exceeds \$500,000.

