

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 313  
OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD OF TEXAS**

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 2013” or the “GSA Act of 2013”.

**4 SEC. 2. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR CONFERENCE  
5 AND TRAVEL 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 conference and  
10 travel spending**

11 “(a) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND SPENDING  
12 LIMITS.—

13 “(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE  
14 MATERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public  
15 website of that agency detailed information on any  
16 presentation made by any employee of that agency  
17 at a conference (except to the extent the head of an

1 agency excludes such information for reasons of na-  
2 tional security) including—

3 “(A) the prepared text of any verbal pres-  
4 entation made; and

5 “(B) any visual, digital, video, or audio  
6 materials presented, including photographs,  
7 slides, and audio-visual recordings.

8 “(2) LIMITS ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CON-  
9 FERENCE.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
11 subparagraph (B), an agency may not expend  
12 more than \$500,000 to support a single con-  
13 ference.

14 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The head of an agency  
15 may waive the limitation in subparagraph (A)  
16 for a specific conference after making a deter-  
17 mination that the expenditure is justified as the  
18 most cost-effective option to achieve a compel-  
19 ling purpose. The head of an agency shall sub-  
20 mit to the appropriate congressional committees  
21 a report on any waiver granted under this sub-  
22 paragraph, including the justification for such  
23 waiver.

24 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
25 in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude

1           an agency from receiving financial support or  
2           other assistance from a private entity to pay or  
3           defray the costs of a conference the total cost  
4           of which exceeds \$500,000.

5        “(b) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RULE.—An  
6 agency may not pay the travel expenses for more than 50  
7 employees of that agency who are stationed in the United  
8 States, for any international conference, unless the Sec-  
9 retary of State determines that attendance for such em-  
10 ployees is in the national interest.

11       “(c) REPORTING ON TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE EX-  
12 PENSES REQUIRED.—At the beginning of each quarter of  
13 each fiscal year, each agency shall post on the public  
14 website of that agency a report on each conference for  
15 which the agency paid travel expenses during the pre-  
16 ceding 3 months that includes—

17           “(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency,  
18 including travel, lodging, and meal expenses, and  
19 any other agency expenditures to otherwise support  
20 the conference;

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

22           “(3) the location of the conference;

23           “(4) the date of the conference;

1               “(5) a brief explanation of how the participa-  
2       tion of employees from such agency at the con-  
3       ference advanced the mission of the agency;

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

8               “(7) the total number of individuals whose trav-  
9       el expenses or other conference expenses were paid  
10      by the agency; and

11               “(8) in the case of a conference for which that  
12      agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

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

15               “(B) describes why the location was se-  
16       lected, including a justification for such selec-  
17       tion;

18               “(C) demonstrates the cost efficiency of  
19       the location;

20               “(D) provides a cost benefit analysis of  
21       holding a conference rather than conducting a  
22       teleconference; and

23               “(E) describes any financial support or  
24       other assistance from a private entity used to  
25       pay or defray the costs of the conference, and

1           for each case where such support or assistance  
2           was used, the head of the agency shall include  
3           a certification that there is no conflict of inter-  
4           est resulting from such support or assistance.

5         “(d) FORMAT AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—

6     Each report posted on the public website under subsection  
7     (c) shall—

8           “(1) be in a searchable electronic format; and  
9           “(2) remain on that website for at least 5 years  
10          after the date of posting.

11        “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the  
13          meaning given that term under section 5701, but  
14          does not include the government of the District of  
15          Columbia.

16           “(2) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘conference’  
17          means a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, or  
18          event that—

19              “(A) is held for consultation, education,  
20              discussion, or training; and

21              “(B) is not held entirely at a Government  
22              facility.

23           “(3) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—The term  
24          ‘international conference’ means a conference occur-

1       ring outside the United States attended by rep-  
2       resentatives of—

3               “(A) the Government of the United States;

4               and

5               “(B) any foreign government, international  
6       organization, or foreign nongovernmental orga-  
7       nization.”.

8       (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

9       The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United  
10      States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
11      ing to section 5711 the following:

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

12       (c) ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSE LIMITS.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each of fiscal  
14      years 2014 through 2018, an agency (as defined  
15      under section 5712(e) of title 5, United States Code,  
16      as added by subsection (a)) may not make, or obli-  
17      gate to make, expenditures for travel expenses, in an  
18      aggregate amount greater than 70 percent of the ag-  
19      gregate amount of such expenses for fiscal year  
20      2010.

21               (2) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

22               (A) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than  
23      September 30, 2013, and after consultation  
24      with the Administrator of General Services and  
25      the Director of the Administrative Office of the

United States Courts, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish guidelines for the determination of what expenses constitute travel expenses for purposes of this subsection. The guidelines shall identify specific expenses, and classes of expenses, that are to be treated as travel expenses.

8 (B) EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY TRAVEL.—

The guidelines required under subparagraph (A) shall exclude military travel expenses in determining what expenses constitute travel expenses. Military travel expenses shall include travel expenses involving military combat, the training or deployment of uniformed military personnel, and such other travel expenses as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

