

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5304

To prohibit Federal agencies from using Government funds to pay for the lodging of agency employees at establishments that are owned by or employ certain public officials or their relatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2018

Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To prohibit Federal agencies from using Government funds to pay for the lodging of agency employees at establishments that are owned by or employ certain public officials or their relatives.

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 “Heightened Oversight
5 of Travel, Eating, and Lodging Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF GOVERNMENT PER DIEM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “agency” means—

2 (A) an Executive agency (as defined in sec-
3 tion 105 of title 5, United States Code), a mili-
4 tary department (as defined in section 102 of
5 title 5, United States Code), or any other estab-
6 lishment in the executive branch (including the
7 Executive Office of the President, the United
8 States Postal Service, and the Postal Regu-
9 latory Commission);

10 (B) an office, agency, or other establish-
11 ment in the legislative branch; and

12 (C) an office, agency, or other establish-
13 ment in the judicial branch;

14 (2) the term “covered individual” means—

15 (A) the President;

16 (B) a relative of the President; and

17 (C) with respect to an agency that is an
18 Executive department, the head of the Execu-
19 tive department;

20 (3) the term “employee” means an individual
21 employed in or under an agency, including an indi-
22 vidual employed intermittently in the Government
23 service as an expert or consultant and paid on a
24 daily when-actually-employed basis and an individual
25 serving without pay or at \$1 a year;

1 (4) the term “Executive department” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 5,
3 United States Code;

4 (5) the term “per diem allowance” means a per
5 diem allowance, as defined in section 5701 of title
6 5, United States Code, or any similar allowance to
7 which an employee is entitled, including any
8 amounts made available to the head or other senior
9 officer of an agency to pay for subsistence or other
10 expenses related to travel;

11 (6) the term “relative” has the meaning given
12 the term in section 3110(a) of title 5, United States
13 Code; and

14 (7) the term “travel reimbursement” means re-
15 imbursement for actual and necessary expenses of
16 official travel under section 5702 of title 5, United
17 States Code, or any similar reimbursement to which
18 an employee is entitled.

19 (b) PROHIBITION.—An agency may not provide an
20 employee of the agency a per diem allowance or travel re-
21 imbursement for the cost of lodging at an establishment—

22 (1) in which a covered individual has a private
23 ownership interest or beneficial interest; or

24 (2) that employs a covered individual.

25 (c) EXCEPTION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) shall not
2 apply to expenditures by the United States Secret
3 Service or any other agency for protective mission
4 purposes relating to the protection of an employee of
5 an Executive department.

6 (2) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
7 90 days after the date on which an agency makes an
8 expenditure that would be prohibited under sub-
9 section (b) but for the exception under paragraph
10 (1) of this subsection, the agency shall submit a re-
11 port describing the expenditure to the Office of Gov-
12 ernment Ethics.

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