

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2299

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, 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 “Protecting Tourism
5 in the United States Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PAN-**
2 **DEMIC ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY**
3 **IN UNITED STATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
6 sultation with the United States Travel and Tourism Advi-
7 sory Board and the head of any other Federal agency the
8 Secretary considers appropriate, shall complete a study on
9 the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and
10 tourism industry, including various segments of the travel
11 and tourism industry, such as domestic, international, lei-
12 sure, business, conventions, meetings, and events.

13 (b) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In conducting
14 the study required by subsection (a) and the interim study
15 required by subsection (e)(1), the Secretary shall con-
16 sider—

17 (1) changes in employment rates in the travel
18 and tourism industry during the pandemic period;

19 (2) changes in revenues of businesses in the
20 travel and tourism industry during the pandemic pe-
21 riod;

22 (3) changes in employment and sales in indus-
23 tries related to the travel and tourism industry, and
24 changes in contributions of the travel and tourism
25 industry to such related industries, during the pan-
26 demic period;

1 (4) the effects attributable to the changes de-
2 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3) in the travel
3 and tourism industry and such related industries on
4 the overall economy of the United States during the
5 pandemic period and the projected effects of such
6 changes on the overall economy of the United States
7 following the pandemic period; and

8 (5) any additional matters the Secretary con-
9 siders appropriate.

10 (c) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In con-
11 ducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary
12 shall—

13 (1) consult with representatives of—

14 (A) the small business sector;

15 (B) the restaurant or food service sector;

16 (C) the hotel and alternative accommoda-
17 tions sector;

18 (D) the attractions or recreations sector;

19 (E) the travel distribution services sector;

20 (F) destination marketing organizations;

21 (G) State tourism offices; and

22 (H) the passenger air, railroad, and rental
23 car sectors; and

24 (2) provide an opportunity for public comment
25 and advice relevant to conducting the study.

1 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
2 months after the date on which the study required by sub-
3 section (a) is completed, the Secretary, in consultation
4 with the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory
5 Board and the head of any other Federal agency the Sec-
6 retary considers appropriate, shall submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly
10 available on the website of the Department of Commerce,
11 a report that contains—

12 (1) the results of such study; and

13 (2) policy recommendations for promoting and
14 assisting the travel and tourism industry.

15 (e) INTERIM STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than
16 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 Secretary, after consultation with relevant stakeholders,
18 including the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory
19 Board, shall—

20 (1) complete an interim study, which shall be
21 based on data available at the time when the study
22 is conducted and provide a framework for the study
23 required by subsection (a), on the effects of the
24 COVID–19 pandemic (as of such time) on the travel
25 and tourism industry, including various segments of

1 the travel and tourism industry, such as domestic,
2 international, leisure, business, conventions, meet-
3 ings, and events; and

4 (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and
5 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
6 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
7 tation of the Senate, and make publicly available on
8 the website of the Department of Commerce, an in-
9 terim report that contains the results of the interim
10 study required by paragraph (1).

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) PANDEMIC PERIOD.—The term “pandemic
13 period” has the meaning given the term “emergency
14 period” in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Secu-
15 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)(B)), excluding
16 any portion of such period after the date that is 1
17 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Commerce.

20 (3) TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY.—The
21 term “travel and tourism industry” means the travel
22 and tourism industry in the United States.

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