

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7820

To require the Secretary of Commerce to identify the resources, regulatory changes, and private sector engagement needed to achieve annual travel and tourism goals, including a travel and tourism recovery strategy from COVID–19, and to prepare a strategy to address potential future pandemics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2022

Mr. DUNN (for himself, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to identify the resources, regulatory changes, and private sector engagement needed to achieve annual travel and tourism goals, including a travel and tourism recovery strategy from COVID–19, and to prepare a strategy to address potential future pandemics, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Travel and Tourism Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Responsibilities of the Secretary of Commerce.
- Sec. 3. Travel and tourism strategy.
- Sec. 4. United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board.
- Sec. 5. Data on domestic travel and tourism.
- Sec. 6. Defined term.

3 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF COM-**
 4 **MERCE.**

5 (a) VISITATION GOALS.—The Secretary of Commerce
 6 shall—

7 (1) establish an annual goal, consistent with the
 8 goals of the travel and tourism strategy developed
 9 pursuant to section 3(1), for—

10 (A) the number of international visitors to
 11 the United States; and

12 (B) the value of travel and tourism com-
 13 merce;

14 (2) develop recommendations for achieving the
 15 annual goals established pursuant to paragraph (1);

16 (3) ensure that travel and tourism policy is de-
 17 veloped in consultation with—

18 (A) the Tourism Policy Council;

19 (C) the National Travel and Tourism Of-
 20 fice;

21 (D) Brand USA;

1 (E) the United States Travel and Tourism
2 Advisory Board; and

3 (F) travel industry partners, including
4 public and private destination marketing orga-
5 nizations, travel and tourism suppliers, and gig
6 economy representatives from these industries;

7 (4) establish short, medium, and long-term
8 timelines for implementing the recommendations de-
9 veloped pursuant to paragraph (2);

10 (5) conduct Federal agency needs assessments,
11 in consultation with the Office of Management and
12 Budget, to identify the resources, statutory or regu-
13 latory changes, and private sector engagement need-
14 ed to achieve the annual commerce goals; and

15 (6) provide assessments and recommendations
16 to—

17 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
18 and Transportation of the Senate;

19 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
20 merce of the House of Representatives; and

21 (C) the public through a publicly accessible
22 website.

23 (b) DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The Sec-
24 retary, to the extent feasible, shall—

1 (1) develop recommendations and goals to sup-
2 port and enhance domestic tourism, separated by
3 business and leisure; and

4 (2) engage public and private stakeholders to
5 support domestic tourism.

6 (c) WORKFORCE.—The Secretary shall—

7 (1) consult with the Secretary of Labor to de-
8 velop strategies and best practices for improving the
9 timeliness and reliability of travel and tourism work-
10 force data;

11 (2) consult with the Secretary of Labor and the
12 Bureau of Economic Analysis to improve travel and
13 tourism industry data;

14 (3) provide recommendations for policy en-
15 hancements and efficiencies; and

16 (4) provide recommendations for policy to sup-
17 port and grow the gig economy as it relates to travel
18 and tourism.

19 (d) RECOVERY STRATEGY.—

20 (1) INITIAL RECOVERY STRATEGY.—Not later
21 than 1 year after amounts are appropriated to ac-
22 complish the purposes of this section, the Secretary,
23 in consultation with public and private stakeholders
24 identified in subsection (a)(3) and public health offi-
25 cials, shall develop and implement a COVID–19

1 public health emergency recovery strategy to assist
2 the United States travel and tourism industry to
3 quickly recover from the pandemic.

4 (2) FUTURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES.—After
5 assisting in the implementation of the strategy de-
6 veloped pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary, in
7 consultation with appropriate public and private
8 stakeholders, shall develop additional recovery strat-
9 egies, including but not limited to a public-private
10 partnership, for the travel and tourism industry in
11 anticipation of other unforeseen catastrophic events
12 that would significantly affect the travel and tourism
13 industry, such as hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, tor-
14 nadoes, terrorist attacks, and pandemics.

15 (3) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.—In developing
16 the COVID–19 public health emergency recovery
17 strategy under paragraph (1) and additional recov-
18 ery strategies for the travel and tourism industry
19 under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct
20 cost-benefit analyses that take into account the
21 health and economic effects of public health mitiga-
22 tion measures on the travel and tourism industry.

23 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) FORECASTING REPORT.—The Secretary
25 shall produce an annual forecasting report on the

1 travel and tourism industry, to the extent feasible,
2 which shall include current and anticipated inter-
3 national inbound volume and spending, taking into
4 account the lasting effects of the COVID–19 public
5 health emergency and the impact of the recovery
6 strategy implemented pursuant to subsection (d)(1).

7 (2) BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.—The Di-
8 rector of the Bureau of Economic Analysis should
9 annually update, to the extent feasible, the Travel
10 and Tourism Satellite Accounts, including State level
11 travel and tourism spending data.

12 (3) NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM OF-
13 FICE.—The Director of the National Travel and
14 Tourism Office—

15 (A) in partnership with the Bureau of Eco-
16 nomic Analysis, shall report international ar-
17 rival and spending data on a regular monthly
18 schedule, which shall be made available to the
19 Travel and Tourism Advisory Board and to the
20 public through a publicly available website; and

21 (B) shall include questions in the Survey
22 of International Air Travelers regarding wait-
23 times, visits to public lands, and State data, to
24 the extent applicable.

1 **SEC. 3. TRAVEL AND TOURISM STRATEGY.**

2 Not less frequently than once every 10 years, the Sec-
3 retary of Commerce, in consultation with the United
4 States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, and the Tour-
5 ism Policy Council, shall develop and submit to Congress
6 a 10-year travel and tourism strategy, which shall in-
7 clude—

8 (1) the establishment of goals with respect to
9 the number of annual international visitors to the
10 United States and the annual value of travel and
11 tourism commerce during such 10-year period;

12 (2) the resources needed to achieve the goals es-
13 tablished pursuant to paragraph (1); and

14 (3) recommendations for statutory or regulatory
15 changes that would be necessary to achieve such
16 goals.

17 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES TRAVEL AND TOURISM ADVISORY**
18 **BOARD.**

19 Section 3 of the Act entitled “An Act to encourage
20 travel in the United States, and for other purposes” (15
21 U.S.C. 1546) is amended—

22 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
23 follows: “**UNITED STATES TRAVEL AND TOURISM**
24 **ADVISORY BOARD; ADVISORY COMMITTEE**”;
25 and

1 (2) by striking “The Secretary of Commerce is
2 authorized” and inserting the following:

3 “(a) UNITED STATES TRAVEL AND TOURISM ADVI-
4 SORY BOARD.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the
6 United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board
7 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Board’), the
8 members of which shall be appointed by the Sec-
9 retary of Commerce for 2-year terms from among
10 companies and organizations in the travel and tour-
11 ism industry.

12 “(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Assistant
13 Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
14 shall serve as the Executive Director of the Board.

15 “(3) EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT.—The Director
16 of the National Travel and Tourism Office of the
17 International Trade Administration shall serve as
18 the Executive Secretariat for the Board.

19 “(4) FUNCTIONS.—The Board’s Charter shall
20 specify that the Board will—

21 “(A) serve as the advisory body to the Sec-
22 retary of Commerce on matters relating to the
23 travel and tourism industry in the United
24 States;

1 “(B) advise the Secretary of Commerce on
2 government policies and programs that affect
3 the United States travel and tourism industry;

4 “(C) offer counsel on current and emerg-
5 ing issues;

6 “(D) provide a forum for discussing and
7 proposing solutions to problems related to the
8 travel and tourism industry; and

9 “(E) provide advice regarding the domestic
10 travel and tourism industry as an economic en-
11 gine.

12 “(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTION OF
13 TOURIST TRAVEL.—The Secretary of Commerce is au-
14 thorized”.

15 **SEC. 5. DATA ON DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND TOURISM.**

16 The Secretary of Commerce, subject to the avail-
17 ability of appropriations, shall collect and make public ag-
18 gregate data on domestic travel and tourism trends by in-
19 dividuals traveling between points within the United
20 States.

21 **SEC. 6. DEFINED TERM.**

22 In this Act, the term “COVID–19 public health emer-
23 gency”—

24 (1) means the public health emergency first de-
25 clared on January 31, 2020, by the Secretary of

1 Health and Human Services under section 319 of
2 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with
3 respect to COVID–19; and

4 (2) includes any renewal of such declaration
5 pursuant to such section 319.

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