

Tom Coburn S.I.C. 12:57 MM 4/18/E KID

Pending
A

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences.

IN THE **AMENDMENT NO 2060** Sess. _____

By *Coburn*

To: *Amdt. No. 2000*

To imp *S. 1789* postal _____

Referr *7* Page(s) _____ and _____

GPO: 2010 63-070 (mac)

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. COBURN (FOR HIMSELF, AND MR. JOHNSON OF WISCONSIN AND MR. MCCAIN)

Viz:

- 1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:
- 2 **SEC. ____ . GOVERNMENT SPONSORED CONFERENCES.**
- 3 (a) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES RE-
- 4 LATING TO CONFERENCES.—
- 5 (1) LIMITATIONS AND REPORTS ON TRAVEL EX-
- 6 PENSES TO CONFERENCES.—Chapter 57 of title 5,
- 7 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
- 8 section 5711 the following:
- 9 “§ 5712. Limitations and reports on travel expenses to
- 10 **conferences**
- 11 “(a) In this section, the term—
- 12 “(1) ‘conference’ means a meeting that—

1 “(A) is held for consultation, education, or
2 discussion;

3 “(B) is not held entirely at an agency facil-
4 ity;

5 “(C) involves costs associated with travel
6 and lodging for some participants; and

7 “(D) is sponsored by 1 or more agencies,
8 1 or more organizations that are not agencies,
9 or a combination of such agencies or organiza-
10 tions; and

11 “(2) ‘international conference’ means a con-
12 ference attended by representatives of —

13 “(A) the United States Government; and

14 “(B) any foreign government, international
15 organization, or foreign nongovernmental orga-
16 nization.

17 “(b) No agency may pay the travel expenses for more
18 than 50 employees of that agency who are stationed in
19 the United States, for any international conference occur-
20 ring outside the United States, unless the Secretary of
21 State determines that attendance for such employees is
22 in the national interest.

23 “(c) At the beginning of each quarter of each fiscal
24 year, each agency shall post on the public Internet website
25 of that agency a report on each conference for which the

1 agency paid travel expenses during the preceding 3
2 months that includes—

3 “(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency,
4 including travel expenses, the cost of scouting for
5 and selecting the location of the conference, and any
6 agency expenditures to otherwise support the con-
7 ference;

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

9 “(3) the location of the conference;

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

12 “(A) justifies the location selected;

13 “(B) demonstrates the cost efficiency of
14 the location; and

15 “(C) provides a cost benefit analysis of
16 holding a conference rather than conducting a
17 teleconference;

18 “(5) the date of the conference;

19 “(6) a brief explanation how the conference ad-
20 vanced the mission of the agency;

21 “(7) the title of any Federal employee or any
22 individual who is not a Federal employee whose trav-
23 el expenses or other conference expenses were paid
24 by the agency; and

1 “(8) the total number of individuals whose trav-
2 el expenses or other conference expenses were paid
3 by the agency.

4 “(d) Each report posted on the public Internet
5 website under subsection (c) shall—

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

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

9 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
10 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title
11 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
12 the item relating to section 5711 the following:

“5712. Limitations and reports on travel expenses to conferences.”.

13 (b) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each of fiscal
15 years 2012 through 2016, an agency (as defined
16 under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States
17 Code) may not make, or obligate to make, expendi-
18 tures for travel expenses, in an aggregate amount
19 greater than 80 percent of the aggregate amount of
20 such expenses for fiscal year 2010.

21 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

22 Not later than September 1, 2012 and after con-
23 sultation with the Administrator of General Services
24 and the Director of the Administrative Office of the
25 United States Courts, the Director of the Office of

1 Management and Budget shall establish guidelines
2 for the determination of what expenses constitute
3 travel expenses for purposes of this subsection. The
4 guidelines shall identify specific expenses, and class-
5 es of expenses, that are to be treated as travel ex-
6 penses.

7 (c) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND LIMITA-
8 TIONS.—

9 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

10 (A) the term “agency” has the meaning
11 given under section 5701(1) of title 5, United
12 States Code; and

13 (B) the term “conference” has the mean-
14 ing given under section 5712(a)(1) of that title
15 (as added by subsection (a)).

16 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE MA-
17 TERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public
18 Internet website of that agency a detailed informa-
19 tion on any presentation made by any employee of
20 that agency at a conference, including—

21 (A) any minutes relating to the presen-
22 tation;

23 (B) any speech delivered;

24 (C) any visual exhibit, including photo-
25 graphs or slides;

1 (D) any video, digital, or audio recordings
2 of the conference; and

3 (E) information regarding any financial
4 support or other assistance from a foundation
5 or other non-Federal source used to pay or de-
6 fray the costs of the conference, which shall in-
7 clude a certification by the head of the agency
8 that there is no conflict of interest resulting
9 from the support received from each such
10 source.

11 (3) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A
12 CONFERENCE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend
14 more than \$500,000 to support a single con-
15 ference.

16 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
17 this paragraph shall be construed to preclude
18 an agency from receiving financial support or
19 other assistance from a foundation or other
20 non-Federal source to pay or defray the costs of
21 a conference the total cost of which exceeds
22 \$500,000.

23 (4) LIMITATION ON THE ANNUAL NUMBER OF
24 CONFERENCES AN AGENCY MAY SUPPORT.—No
25 agency may expend funds on more than a single con-

1 ference sponsored or organized by an organization
2 during any fiscal year, unless the agency is the pri-
3 mary sponsor and organizer of the conference.