

HR 313

GSA Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jan 18, 2013

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Aug 1, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/313>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Emerson, Jo Ann [R-MO-8]

Party: Republican • **State:** MO • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Jul 25, 2013
Rep. Lankford, James [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Jul 30, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 1, 2013
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Reported By	Jul 30, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 1347	Related bill	Oct 1, 2014: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 582.

Government Spending Accountability Act of 2013 or the GSA Act of 2013 - Requires each federal agency to post on its public website detailed information on employee presentations at conferences, including: (1) the prepared text of any verbal presentation; and (2) any visual, digital, video, or audio materials presented, including photographs, slides, and audio-visual recordings. Allows a waiver of such requirement for reasons of national security.

Limits to \$500,000 the amount that any agency may spend to support a single conference. Allows an agency head to waive such limitation for a specific conference after making a determination that a higher expenditure is justified as the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose. Requires the agency head to report to the appropriate congressional committees on any waiver granted and the justification for such waiver.

Prohibits an agency from paying the travel expenses for more than 50 employees stationed in the United States to attend any international conference, unless the Secretary of State determines that attendance of such employees is in the national interest, or the agency head determines that attendance for such employees is critical to the agency's mission. Requires the Secretary and the agency head to report to the appropriate congressional committees on any waiver granted and the justification for such waiver.

Requires each agency to post on its public website quarterly reports on each conference that costs more than \$10,000 for which the agency paid travel expenses during the preceding 3 months that include:

- itemized expenses, including travel, lodging, meal expenses, and any other agency expenditures to support the conference;
- the primary sponsor of the conference;
- the location and date of the conference;
- an explanation of how participation at the conference by agency employees advanced the mission of the agency;
- the title of any employee or other individual whose travel or conference expenses were paid by the agency;
- the total number of individuals whose travel or conference expenses were paid by the agency; and
- for a conference for which the agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that: (1) describes the cost to the agency of selecting the specific conference venue and why such location was selected, (2) demonstrates the cost efficiency of the location, (3) provides a cost benefit analysis of holding a conference rather than conducting a teleconference, and (4) describes any financial support or assistance from a private entity used to pay or defray the costs of the conference and a certification from the agency head that no conflict of interest resulted from accepting such support or assistance.

Limits agency travel expenses for FY2014-FY2018 to 70% of the aggregate amount of such expenses for FY2010. Allows an agency to exclude certain travel expenses from such limitation if the agency head determines that the inclusion of such expenses would undermine national security, international diplomacy, health and safety inspections, law enforcement, or site visits required for oversight or investigatory purposes. Requires agency heads to report to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in each of FY2014-FY2018 on: (1) the justification for any expenses excluded; and (2) the positive or negative impacts, if any, of the limitation on travel expenses on the agency's mission, cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and ability to perform core functions.

Requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), not later than September 30, 2013, to establish guidelines for determining what expenses constitute travel expenses for purposes of this Act. Exempts from such guidelines military travel expenses.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 1, 2013:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Mr. Meadows moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5193-5196)
- **Jul 31, 2013:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 313.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5193-5194)
- **Jul 31, 2013:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5193-5194)
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 30, 2013:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H. Rept. 113-183.
- **Jul 30, 2013:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 131.
- **Mar 20, 2013:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 20, 2013:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Jan 18, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 18, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.