

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6237

To allow Federal State Department employees to file a confidential or open report on any fiscal waste that they come across and establishes an award program for exemplary employees who file non-confidential reports on wasteful spending.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. BAIRD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To allow Federal State Department employees to file a confidential or open report on any fiscal waste that they come across and establishes an award program for exemplary employees who file non-confidential reports on wasteful spending.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL WASTE SELF-RE-**
4 **PORTING PROGRAM AND FISCAL RESPONSI-**
5 **BILITY AWARD.**

6 (a) FISCAL WASTE SELF-REPORTING PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of State
2 Under Secretary for Management shall work with
3 the Director of the Budget and Planning Bureau
4 and the Director of Global Talent in the Global Tal-
5 ent Management Bureau, among other persons, to
6 establish a program for employees to self-report fis-
7 cal waste they observe in their course of employ-
8 ment. Within 60 days of receiving a report, the
9 Under Secretary for Management shall—

10 (A) investigate the substance of the report
11 and determine if it identifies fiscal waste; and

12 (B) rectify all instances of fiscal waste
13 identified by the report.

14 (2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Employees shall have
15 the opportunity to mark their submissions to the fis-
16 cal waste self-reporting program as confidential. In-
17 formation in reports marked as confidential shall—

18 (A) be accessible only to staff responsible
19 for administering the fiscal waste self-reporting
20 program and be shared only insofar as is nec-
21 essary to investigate or rectify the report. Staff
22 administering the program shall not share the
23 name or other identifying information of the
24 submitting employee; and

1 (B) not be used in the promotion, demo-
2 tion, or termination of or other employment de-
3 cisions relating to the submitting employee.

4 (3) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Under Secretary
5 for Management shall submit to the appropriate con-
6 gressional committees an annual report detailing—

7 (A) all submissions to the fiscal waste self-
8 reporting program that year;

9 (B) the findings of all investigations into
10 those submissions; and

11 (C) all rectifying actions taken in response
12 to those submissions.

13 (b) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for
15 Management shall work with the Director of the
16 Budget and Planning Bureau and the Director of
17 Global Talent in the Global Talent Management Bu-
18 reau, among other persons, to establish a depart-
19 mental award for any exemplary employee who—

20 (A) recommends or adopts significant cost
21 saving measures in program implementation;

22 (B) identifies instances of fiscal waste
23 within a program;

24 (C) cancels, or recommends cancellation of,
25 programs resulting in fiscal waste; and

1 (D) proposes a plan for reallocation of re-
2 sources in lieu of requesting greater appropria-
3 tions.

4 (2) SELF-REPORTS.—An employee’s non-con-
5 fidential submissions to the fiscal waste self-report-
6 ing program, particularly those resulting in rectifica-
7 tion, shall be considered in determining that employ-
8 ee’s eligibility for this award.

9 (3) FREQUENCY.—Eligibility for this award
10 shall be determined on at least a quarterly basis.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means the House Committee on Foreign
15 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Rela-
16 tions.

17 (2) FISCAL WASTE.—The term “fiscal waste”
18 means—

19 (A) any inefficiency in the spending pat-
20 terns or objectives of a program;

21 (B) any program which consistently does
22 not adequately achieve its stated objectives; and

23 (C) any program which no longer holds rel-
24 evance or has become obsolete.

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