

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3955

To require the heads of Federal agencies to submit to Congress an annual report regarding official time authorized under title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2024

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the heads of Federal agencies to submit to Congress an annual report regarding official time authorized under title 5, United States Code, 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 “Taxpayer-Funded  
5 Union Time Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICIAL TIME.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) AGENCY; EMPLOYEE; LABOR ORGANIZA-  
2           TION.—The terms “agency”, “employee”, and “labor  
3           organization” have the meanings given those terms  
4           in section 7103 of title 5, United States Code.

5           (2) SECTION 7131.—The term “section 7131”  
6           means section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

7           (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than June 30 of  
8           each year that begins after the year in which this Act is  
9           enacted, the head of each agency shall submit to Congress,  
10          and post on the public website of the agency, a report that  
11          details the following for the year covered by the report:

12           (1) The cost to the agency of official time au-  
13          thorized under section 7131.

14           (2) A detailed explanation of the purpose for  
15          which the agency made each authorization of official  
16          time under section 7131.

17           (3) With respect to each employee of the agency  
18          for whom official time was authorized under section  
19          7131—

20           (A) the position and annual rate of basic  
21          pay of the employee;

22           (B) the total number of hours the em-  
23          ployee spent on activities for which the official  
24          time was authorized; and

1           (C) the percentage that the number of  
2           hours described in subparagraph (B) rep-  
3           resented with respect to the total number of  
4           hours worked by the employee for the applicable  
5           year.

6           (4) The number of hours for which the agency  
7           permitted labor organizations, or employees of the  
8           agency for whom official time was authorized under  
9           section 7311, to use agency property at no cost or  
10          at a discounted rate.

11          (5) The total monetary value of the uses de-  
12          scribed in paragraph (4).

13          (6) The amount of any reimbursement collected  
14          by the agency with respect to a use described in  
15          paragraph (4).

16          (7) Any expenses paid by the agency for activi-  
17          ties conducted by a labor organization or a private  
18          individual with respect to official time authorized by  
19          the agency under section 7131.

20          (8) An explanation of any increase, as com-  
21          pared to the report submitted in the previous year,  
22          in the amount of official time authorized by the  
23          agency under section 7131.

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