

available resources permit, shall improve the survey of international air travelers conducted to provide the data needed to estimate the Nation's balance of payments in international travel by—

“(1) expanding the survey to cover travel to and from the Middle East, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean and enhancing coverage for Mexico, Oceania, the Far East, and Europe; and

“(2) improving the methodology for conducting on-board surveys by (A) enhancing communications, training, and liaison activities in cooperation with participating air carriers, (B) providing for the continuation of needed data bases, and (C) utilizing improved sampling procedures.

The Secretary of Commerce shall seek to increase the reporting frequency of the data provided by Statistics Canada and the Bank of Mexico on international travel trade between the United States and both Canada and Mexico. The Secretary shall improve the quarterly statistical report on United States international travel receipts and payments published in the Bureau of Economic Analysis document known as ‘The Survey of Current Services’ and heighten its visibility.”

#### REPORT ON TOURISM AND TRAVEL ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 102-372, §18, Sept. 30, 1992, 106 Stat. 1182, directed Secretary of Commerce, within 18 months after Sept. 30, 1992, to report to Congress on (1) status of actions required by section 3 of Pub. L. 102-372 and desirability and feasibility of publishing international travel receipts and payments on a monthly basis, (2) Secretary's actions under 22 U.S.C. 2122(8) regarding the inbound and outbound tourism trade between United States and emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, (3) activities of Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies to increase tourism opportunities for, and encourage travel by, disabled persons, and (4) efforts undertaken under 22 U.S.C. 2123c to improve visitor facilitation and effect on United States travel and tourism as a result of those improvements.

### § 2123. Office of Travel Promotion

#### (a) Office established

There is established within the Department of Commerce an office to be known as the Office of Travel Promotion.

#### (b) Director

##### (1) Appointment

The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

##### (2) Qualifications

The Director shall be a citizen of the United States and have experience in a field directly related to the promotion of travel to and within the United States.

##### (3) Duties

The Director shall be responsible for ensuring the office is carrying out its functions effectively and shall report to the Secretary.

#### (c) Functions

The Office shall—

(1) serve as liaison to the Corporation for Travel Promotion established by subsection (b) of section 11 of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009<sup>1</sup> and support and encourage the development of programs to increase the number of international visitors to the United States for

business, leisure, educational, medical, exchange, and other purposes;

(2) work with the Corporation, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security—

(A) to disseminate information more effectively to potential international visitors about documentation and procedures required for admission to the United States as a visitor;

(B) to ensure that arriving international visitors are generally welcomed with accurate information and in an inviting manner;

(C) to collect accurate data on the total number of international visitors that visit each State; and

(D) enhance the entry and departure experience for international visitors through the use of advertising, signage, and customer service; and

(3) support State, regional, and private sector initiatives to promote travel to and within the United States.

#### (d) Reports to Congress

Within a year after March 4, 2010, and periodically thereafter as appropriate, the Secretary shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, and the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs describing the Office's work with the Corporation, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out subsection (c)(2).

(Pub. L. 87-63, title II, §202, as added Pub. L. 111-145, §9(i), formerly §9(g), Mar. 4, 2010, 124 Stat. 63; renumbered 9(i), Pub. L. 113-235, div. B, title VI, §606(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2219.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Subsection (b) of section 11 of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), probably should be a reference to subsection (b) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, which is classified to section 2131(b) of this title.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2123, Pub. L. 87-63, title II, §202, formerly §3, June 29, 1961, 75 Stat. 130; Pub. L. 91-477, §§1, 2, Oct. 21, 1970, 84 Stat. 1071, 1072; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 97-63, §3(c), (d), (e)(1), Oct. 16, 1981, 95 Stat. 1012, 1013; Pub. L. 102-372, §§4(n), 6(b), (c), 7, 8(b), Sept. 30, 1992, 106 Stat. 1174, 1176, 1178, enumerated duties of Secretary of Commerce in carrying out national tourism policy, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-288, §9(a), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3407.

### § 2123a. Research program

#### (a) In general

The Office of Travel and Tourism Industries shall expand and continue its research and development activities in connection with the promotion of international travel to the United States, including—

(1) expanding access to the official Mexican travel surveys data to provide the States with

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.