

date of the enactment of the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

(Added Pub. L. 105-264, §5(a), Oct. 19, 1998, 112 Stat. 2354.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998, referred to in subsec. (e), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 105-264, which was approved Oct. 19, 1998.

§ 5711. Authority for telework travel expenses test programs

(a) Except as provided under subsection (f)(1), in this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

- (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, under a test program which the Administrator of General Services determines to be in the interest of the Government and approves, an employing agency may pay through the proper disbursing official any necessary travel expenses in lieu of any payment otherwise authorized or required under this subchapter for employees participating in a telework program. Under an approved test program, an agency may provide an employee with the option to waive any payment authorized or required under this subchapter. An agency shall include in any request to the Administrator for approval of such a test program an analysis of the expected costs and benefits and a set of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

(2) Any test program conducted under this section shall be designed to enhance cost savings or other efficiencies that accrue to the Government.

(3) Under any test program, if an agency employee voluntarily relocates from the pre-existing duty station of that employee, the Administrator may authorize the employing agency to establish a reasonable maximum number of occasional visits to the pre-existing duty station before that employee is eligible for payment of any accrued travel expenses by that agency.

(4) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the authority of any agency to conduct test programs.

(c) The Administrator shall transmit a copy of any test program approved by the Administrator under this section, and the rationale for approval, to the appropriate committees of Congress at least 30 days before the effective date of the program.

(d)(1) An agency authorized to conduct a test program under subsection (b) shall provide to the Administrator, the Telework Managing Officer of that agency, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the program not later than 3 months after completion of the program.

(2) The results in a report described under paragraph (1) may include—

- (A) the number of visits an employee makes to the pre-existing duty station of that employee;

(B) the travel expenses paid by the agency;

(C) the travel expenses paid by the employee; or

(D) any other information the agency determines useful to aid the Administrator, Telework Managing Officer, and Congress in understanding the test program and the impact of the program.

(e) No more than 10 test programs under this section may be conducted simultaneously.

(f)(1) In this subsection, the term “appropriate committee of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Patent and Trademark Office shall conduct a test program under this section, including the provision of reports in accordance with subsection (d)(1).

(3) In conducting the program under this subsection, the Patent and Trademark Office may pay any travel expenses of an employee for travel to and from a Patent and Trademark Office worksite or provide an employee with the option to waive any payment authorized or required under this subchapter, if—

(A) the employee is employed at a Patent and Trademark Office worksite and enters into an approved telework arrangement;

(B) the employee requests to telework from a location beyond the local commuting area of the Patent and Trademark Office worksite; and

(C) the Patent and Trademark Office approves the requested arrangement for reasons of employee convenience instead of an agency need for the employee to relocate in order to perform duties specific to the new location.

(4)(A) The Patent and Trademark Office shall establish an oversight committee comprising an equal number of members representing management and labor, including representatives from each collective bargaining unit.

(B) The oversight committee shall develop the operating procedures for the program under this subsection to—

- (i) provide for the effective and appropriate functioning of the program; and
- (ii) ensure that—

(I) reasonable technological or other alternatives to employee travel are used before requiring employee travel, including teleconferencing, videoconferencing or internet-based technologies;

(II) the program is applied consistently and equitably throughout the Patent and Trademark Office; and

(III) an optimal operating standard is developed and implemented for maximizing the use of the telework arrangement described under paragraph (2) while minimizing agency travel expenses and employee travel requirements.

(5)(A) The test program under this subsection shall be designed to enhance cost savings or

other efficiencies that accrue to the Government.

(B) The Director of the Patent and Trademark Office shall—

(i) prepare an analysis of the expected costs and benefits and a set of criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the program; and

(ii) before the test program is implemented, submit the analysis and criteria to the Administrator of General Services and to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(C) With respect to an employee of the Patent and Trademark Office who voluntarily relocates from the pre-existing duty station of that employee, the operating procedures of the program may include a reasonable maximum number of occasional visits to the pre-existing duty station before that employee is eligible for payment of any accrued travel expenses by the Office.

(g) The authority to conduct test programs under this section shall expire on December 31, 2020.

(Added Pub. L. 111-292, §3(a), Dec. 9, 2010, 124 Stat. 3171; amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title XI, §1105(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2001.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted “on December 31, 2020” for “7 years after the date of the enactment of the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title XI, §1105(b), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2001, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect as though enacted on December 1, 2017.”

SUBCHAPTER II—TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES; NEW APPOINTEES, STUDENT TRAINEES, AND TRANSFERRED EMPLOYEES

§ 5721. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) “agency” means—

- (A) an Executive agency;
- (B) a military department;
- (C) a court of the United States;
- (D) the Administrative Office of the United States Courts;
- (E) the Library of Congress;
- (F) the Botanic Garden;
- (G) the Architect of the Capitol;
- (H) the Government Publishing Office; and
- (I) the government of the District of Columbia;

but does not include a Government controlled corporation;

(2) “employee” means an individual employed in or under an agency;

(3) “continental United States” means the several States and the District of Columbia, but does not include Alaska or Hawaii;

(4) “Government” means the Government of the United States and the government of the District of Columbia;

(5) “appropriation” includes funds made available by statute under section 9104 of title 31;

(6) “United States” means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Common-

wealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the territories and possessions of the United States, and the areas and installations in the Republic of Panama that are made available to the United States pursuant to the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements (as described in section 3(a) of the Panama Canal Act of 1979); and

(7) “Foreign Service of the United States” means the Foreign Service as constituted under the Foreign Service Act of 1980.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 97-258, §3(a)(14), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1063; Pub. L. 105-264, §6(1), Oct. 19, 1998, 112 Stat. 2356; Pub. L. 110-161, div. H, title I, §1303(a), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2242; Pub. L. 113-235, div. H, title I, §1301(b), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2537.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

The section is based on sections 18 and 19 of the Act of Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 744, 60 Stat. 811, 812. Sections 18 and 19 of the Act of Aug. 2, 1946, are omitted from this title and transferred to other titles of the United States Code since such sections apply also to sections 9, 11, and 16(a) of the Act of Aug. 2, 1946, which sections appear in titles 31 and 41 of the United States Code.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3(a) of the Panama Canal Act of 1979, referred to in par. (6), is classified to section 3602(a) of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

The Foreign Service Act of 1980, referred to in par. (7), is Pub. L. 96-465, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2071, which is classified principally to chapter 52 (§3901 et seq.) of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3901 of Title 22 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Par. (1)(G) to (I). Pub. L. 110-161 added subpar. (G) and redesignated former subpars. (G) and (H) as (H) and (I), respectively.

1998—Pars. (6), (7). Pub. L. 105-264 added pars. (6) and (7).

1982—Par. (5). Pub. L. 97-258 substituted “section 9104” for “section 849”.

CHANGE OF NAME

“Government Publishing Office” substituted for “Government Printing Office” in par. (1)(H) on authority of section 1301(b) of Pub. L. 113-235, set out as a note preceding section 301 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

§ 5722. Travel and transportation expenses of new appointees; posts of duty outside the continental United States

(a) Under regulations prescribed under section 5738 of this title and subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an agency may pay from its appropriations—

(1) travel expenses of a new appointee and transportation expenses of his immediate family and his household goods and personal effects from the place of actual residence at the time of appointment to the place of employment outside the continental United States;

(2) these expenses on the return of an employee from his post of duty outside the con-