

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5624

To require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 5, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself and Ms. MCCOLLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, 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 “U.S. Wants to Com-
5 pete for a World Expo Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Bureau of International Expositions
2 (BIE) is a treaty-based organization, with 169 mem-
3 ber-states, responsible for governing World Fairs
4 and International Expositions since the signing of
5 the Convention Concerning International Expositions
6 on November 22, 1928. The United States is a party
7 to the Convention.

8 (2) The United States withdrew from member-
9 ship in the BIE in 2001 in response to congressional
10 limitations on the expenditure of funds for United
11 States participation.

12 (3) The United States and other non-members
13 of the BIE face significantly higher costs to host
14 and to participate in international expositions be-
15 cause of their non-member status.

16 (4) The bid of a United States city, region, or
17 State to host an international exposition is unlikely
18 to be successful if the United States is not a mem-
19 ber of the BIE, because BIE rules require that
20 members receive a preference over non-members for
21 all such bids.

22 (5) Since the United States was previously a
23 member of the BIE, and has already acceded to the
24 Convention, no formal congressional action is nec-
25 essary for the United States to rejoin the BIE.

1 (6) The United States regularly enters into
2 international legal agreements with other countries
3 or international organizations, that are binding on
4 the United States as a matter of international law.
5 Under United States law, such agreements may take
6 the form of treaties or executive agreements.

7 (7) The President may enter into an inter-
8 national agreement on matters within his constitu-
9 tional authority to the extent that the agreement is
10 not inconsistent with enacted legislation. The United
11 States is currently a party to approximately 900
12 treaties and 5,000 executive agreements.

13 (8) Section 1(a) of Public Law 91–269 (22
14 U.S.C. 2801(a)) found that “international expo-
15 sitions . . . have a significant impact on the eco-
16 nomic growth of the region surrounding the expo-
17 sition and . . . are important instruments of na-
18 tional policy”.

19 (9) Although section 204 of the Admiral James
20 W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Au-
21 thorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22
22 U.S.C. 2452b) prohibits “the expenditure of funds
23 appropriated to the Department of State for a
24 United States pavilion or other major exhibit at any
25 international exposition or world’s fair registered by

1 the Bureau of International Expositions in excess of
2 amounts expressly authorized and appropriated for
3 such purposes”, the section neither prohibits nor re-
4 stricts the United States from being a member of
5 the BIE.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) there are no statutory provisions that pro-
9 hibit the United States from rejoining the BIE;

10 (2) the United States should rejoin the BIE im-
11 mediately to promote public diplomacy, global brand-
12 ing, and tourism to the United States; and

13 (3) the Secretary of State, in partnership with
14 the Secretary of Commerce, State and local govern-
15 ments, and private and nonprofit entities, should
16 take all necessary steps to facilitate the timely sub-
17 mission of a request to rejoin the BIE.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
21 shall take such actions as may be necessary for the United
22 States to rejoin the BIE, notwithstanding any prohibitions
23 under section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and
24 Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
25 Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b).

1 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall inform
2 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
4 the Senate upon submitting a request to rejoin the BIE.

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