

**Calendar No. 192**117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**S. 115**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Reported by Ms. CANTWELL, with amendments

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Tourism  
3 in the United States Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF COVID-19 PAN-**  
5 **DEMIC ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY**  
6 **IN UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
9 sultation with the United States Travel and Tourism Advi-  
10 sory Board and the head of any other Federal agency the  
11 Secretary considers appropriate, shall complete a study on  
12 the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and  
13 tourism industry, including various segments of the travel  
14 and tourism industry, such as domestic, international, lei-  
15 sure, business, conventions, meetings, and events.

16 (b) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In conducting  
17 the study required by subsection (a) and the interim study  
18 required by subsection (e)(1), the Secretary shall con-  
19 sider—

20 (1) changes in employment rates in the travel  
21 and tourism industry during the pandemic period;

22 (2) changes in revenues of businesses in the  
23 travel and tourism industry during the pandemic pe-  
24 riod;

25 (3) changes in employment and sales in indus-  
26 tries related to the travel and tourism industry, and

1 changes in contributions of the travel and tourism  
 2 industry to such related industries, during the pan-  
 3 demic period;

4 (4) the effects attributable to the changes de-  
 5 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3) in the travel  
 6 and tourism industry and such related industries on  
 7 the overall economy of the United States, *and an*  
 8 *analysis of regional economies on a per capita basis*  
 9 during the pandemic period and the projected effects  
 10 of such changes on the *regional and* overall economy  
 11 of the United States following the pandemic period;  
 12 ~~and~~

13 (5) *reports on the economic impact of COVID-19*  
 14 *issued by other Federal agencies to-date; and*

15 ~~(5)~~(6) any additional matters the Secretary con-  
 16 siders appropriate.

17 (c) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In con-  
 18 ducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary  
 19 shall—

20 (1) consult with representatives of—

21 (A) the small business sector;

22 (B) the restaurant or food service sector;

23 (C) the hotel and alternative accommoda-  
 24 tions sector;

25 (D) the attractions or recreations sector;

1 (E) the travel distribution services sector;

2 (F) destination marketing organizations;

3 (G) State tourism offices; and

4 (H) the passenger air, railroad, and rental  
5 car sectors; and

6 (2) provide an opportunity for public comment  
7 and advice relevant to conducting the study.

8 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6  
9 months after the date on which the study required by sub-  
10 section (a) is completed, the Secretary, in consultation  
11 with the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory  
12 Board and the head of any other Federal agency the Sec-  
13 retary considers appropriate, shall submit to the Com-  
14 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
15 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
16 and Transportation of the Senate, and make publicly  
17 available on the website of the Department of Commerce,  
18 a report that contains—

19 (1) the results of such study; and

20 (2) policy recommendations for promoting and  
21 assisting the travel and tourism industry.

22 (e) INTERIM STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than  
23 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
24 Secretary, after consultation with relevant stakeholders,

1 including the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory  
2 Board, shall—

3           (1) complete an interim study, which shall be  
4           based on data available at the time when the study  
5           is conducted and provide a framework for the study  
6           required by subsection (a), on the effects of the  
7           COVID–19 pandemic (as of such time) on the travel  
8           and tourism industry, including various segments of  
9           the travel and tourism industry, such as domestic,  
10          international, leisure, business, conventions, meet-  
11          ings, and events; and

12          (2) submit to the Committee on Energy and  
13          Commerce of the House of Representatives and the  
14          Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
15          tation of the Senate, and make publicly available on  
16          the website of the Department of Commerce, an in-  
17          terim report that contains the results of the interim  
18          study required by paragraph (1).

19          (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20           (1) PANDEMIC PERIOD.—The term “pandemic  
21           period” has the meaning given the term “emergency  
22           period” in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Secu-  
23           rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)(B)), excluding  
24           any portion of such period after the date that is 1  
25           year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

3           (3) TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY.—The  
4 term “travel and tourism industry” means the travel  
5 and tourism industry in the United States.



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