

SUBCHAPTER IV—CORPORATION FOR  
TRAVEL PROMOTION

**§ 2131. Travel Promotion Act of 2009**

**(a) Short title**

This section may be cited as the “Travel Promotion Act of 2009”.

**(b) The Corporation for Travel Promotion**

**(1) Establishment**

The Corporation for Travel Promotion is established as a nonprofit corporation. The Corporation shall not be an agency or establishment of the United States Government. The Corporation shall be subject to the provisions of the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section 29–1001 et seq.), to the extent that such provisions are consistent with this subsection, and shall have the powers conferred upon a nonprofit corporation by that Act to carry out its purposes and activities.

**(2) Board of directors**

**(A) In general**

The Corporation shall have a board of directors of 11 members with knowledge of international travel promotion and marketing, broadly representing various regions of the United States, who are United States citizens. Members of the board shall be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce (after consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State), as follows:

- (i) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the hotel accommodations sector;
- (ii) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the restaurant sector;
- (iii) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the small business or retail sector or in associations representing that sector;
- (iv) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the travel distribution services sector;
- (v) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the attractions or recreations sector;
- (vi) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience as officials of a city convention and visitors’ bureau;
- (vii) 2 shall have appropriate expertise and experience as officials of a State tourism office;
- (viii) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in the passenger air sector;
- (ix) 1 shall have appropriate expertise and experience in immigration law and policy, including visa requirements and United States entry procedures; and
- (x) 1 shall have appropriate expertise in the intercity passenger railroad business.

**(B) Incorporation**

The members of the initial board of directors shall serve as incorporators and shall take whatever actions are necessary to establish the Corporation under the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, section 29–301.01 et seq.).

**(C) Term of office**

The term of office of each member of the board appointed by the Secretary shall be 3 years, except that, of the members first appointed—

- (i) 3 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year;
- (ii) 4 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years; and
- (iii) 4 shall be appointed for terms of 3 years.

**(D) Removal for cause**

The Secretary of Commerce may remove any member of the board for good cause.

**(E) Vacancies**

Any vacancy in the board shall not affect its power, but shall be filled in the manner required by this subsection. Any member whose term has expired may serve until the member’s successor has taken office, or until the end of the calendar year in which the member’s term has expired, whichever is earlier. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which that member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of the predecessor’s term. No member of the board shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive full 3-year terms.

**(F) Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Members of the board shall annually elect one of the members to be Chairman and elect 1 or 2 of the members as Vice Chairman or Vice Chairmen.

**(G) Status as Federal employees**

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no member of the board may be considered to be a Federal employee of the United States by virtue of his or her service as a member of the board.

**(H) Compensation; expenses**

No member shall receive any compensation from the Federal government for serving on the Board. Each member of the Board shall be paid actual travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence expenses when away from his or her usual place of residence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

**(3) Officers and employees**

**(A) In general**

The Corporation shall have an executive director and such other officers as may be named and appointed by the board for terms and at rates of compensation fixed by the board. No individual other than a citizen of the United States may be an officer of the Corporation. The Corporation may hire and fix the compensation of such employees as may be necessary to carry out its purposes. No officer or employee of the Corporation may receive any salary or other compensation (except for compensation for services on boards of directors of other organizations that do not receive funds from the Corpora-

tion, on committees of such boards, and in similar activities for such organizations) from any sources other than the Corporation for services rendered during the period of his or her employment by the Corporation. Service by any officer on boards of directors of other organizations, on committees of such boards, and in similar activities for such organizations shall be subject to annual advance approval by the board and subject to the provisions of the Corporation's Statement of Ethical Conduct. All officers and employees shall serve at the pleasure of the board.

**(B) Nonpolitical nature of appointment**

No political test or qualification shall be used in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking other personnel actions with respect to officers, agents, or employees of the Corporation.

**(4) Nonprofit and nonpolitical nature of Corporation**

**(A) Stock**

The Corporation shall have no power to issue any shares of stock, or to declare or pay any dividends.

**(B) Profit**

No part of the income or assets of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer, employee, or any other individual except as salary or reasonable compensation for services.

**(C) Politics**

The Corporation may not contribute to or otherwise support any political party or candidate for elective public office.

**(D) Sense of Congress regarding lobbying activities**

It is the sense of Congress that the Corporation should not engage in lobbying activities (as defined in section 1602(7) of title 2.<sup>1</sup>

**(5) Duties and powers**

**(A) In general**

The Corporation shall develop and execute a plan—

(i) to provide useful information to foreign tourists, business people, students, scholars, scientists, and others interested in traveling to the United States, including the distribution of material provided by the Federal government concerning entry requirements, required documentation, fees, processes, and information concerning declared public health emergencies, to prospective travelers, travel agents, tour operators, meeting planners, foreign governments, travel media and other international stakeholders;

(ii) to identify, counter, and correct misperceptions regarding United States entry policies around the world;

(iii) to maximize the economic and diplomatic benefits of travel to the United

States by promoting the United States of America to world travelers through the use of, but not limited to, all forms of advertising, outreach to trade shows, and other appropriate promotional activities;

(iv) to ensure that international travel benefits all States and the District of Columbia and to identify opportunities and strategies to promote tourism to rural and urban areas equally, including areas not traditionally visited by international travelers; and

(v) to give priority to the Corporation's efforts with respect to countries and populations most likely to travel to the United States.

**(B) Specific powers**

In order to carry out the purposes of this subsection, the Corporation may—

(i) obtain grants from and make contracts with individuals and private companies, State, and Federal agencies, organizations, and institutions;

(ii) hire or accept the voluntary services of consultants, experts, advisory boards, and panels to aid the Corporation in carrying out its purposes; and

(iii) take such other actions as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in this subsection.

**(C) Public outreach and information**

The Corporation shall develop and maintain a publicly accessible website.

**(6) Open meetings**

Meetings of the board of directors of the Corporation, including any committee of the board, shall be open to the public. The board may, by majority vote, close any such meeting only for the time necessary to preserve the confidentiality of commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, to discuss personnel matters, or to discuss legal matters affecting the Corporation, including pending or potential litigation.

**(7) Major campaigns**

The board may not authorize the Corporation to obligate or expend more than \$25,000,000 on any advertising campaign, promotion, or related effort unless—

(A) the obligation or expenditure is approved by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the members of the board present at the meeting;

(B) at least 6 members of the board are present at the meeting at which it is approved; and

(C) each member of the board has been given at least 3 days advance notice of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken and the matters to be voted upon at that meeting.

**(8) Fiscal accountability**

**(A) Fiscal year**

The Corporation shall establish as its fiscal year the 12-month period beginning on October 1.

**(B) Budget**

The Corporation shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. A closing parenthesis probably should precede the period.

**(C) Annual audits**

The Corporation shall engage an independent accounting firm to conduct an annual financial audit of the Corporation's operations and shall publish the results of the audit. The Comptroller General of the United States may review any audit of a financial statement conducted under this paragraph by an independent accounting firm and may audit the Corporation's operations at the discretion of the Comptroller General. The Comptroller General and the Congress shall have full and complete access to the books and records of the Corporation.

**(D) Program audits**

Not later than 2 years after March 4, 2010, the Comptroller General shall conduct a review of the programmatic activities of the Corporation for Travel Promotion. This report shall be provided to appropriate congressional committees.

**(c) Accountability measures****(1) Objectives**

The Board shall establish annual objectives for the Corporation for each fiscal year subject to approval by the Secretary of Commerce (after consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State). The Corporation shall establish a marketing plan for each fiscal year not less than 60 days before the beginning of that year and provide a copy of the plan, and any revisions thereof, to the Secretary.

**(2) Budget**

The board shall transmit a copy of the Corporation's budget for the forthcoming fiscal year to the Secretary not less than 60 days before the beginning of each fiscal year, together with an explanation of any expenditure provided for by the budget in excess of \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year. The Corporation shall make a copy of the budget and the explanation available to the public and shall provide public access to the budget and explanation on the Corporation's website.

**(3) Annual report to Congress**

The Corporation shall submit an annual report for the preceding fiscal year to the Secretary of Commerce for transmittal to the Congress on or before the 15th day of May of each year. The report shall include—

(A) a comprehensive and detailed report of the Corporation's operations, activities, financial condition, and accomplishments under this section;

(B) a comprehensive and detailed inventory of amounts obligated or expended by the Corporation during the preceding fiscal year;

(C) a detailed description of each in-kind contribution, its fair market value, the individual or organization responsible for contributing, its specific use, and a justification for its use within the context of the Corporation's mission;

(D) an objective and quantifiable measurement of its progress, on an objective-by-objective basis, in meeting the objectives established by the board;

(E) an explanation of the reason for any failure to achieve an objective established by the board and any revisions or alterations to the Corporation's objectives under paragraph (1);

(F) a comprehensive and detailed report of the Corporation's operations and activities to promote tourism in rural and urban areas; and

(G) such recommendations as the Corporation deems appropriate.

**(4) Limitation on use of funds**

Amounts deposited in the Fund may not be used for any purpose inconsistent with carrying out the objectives, budget, and report described in this subsection.

**(d) Matching public and private funding****(1) Establishment of Travel Promotion Fund**

There is hereby established in the Treasury a fund which shall be known as the Travel Promotion Fund.

**(2) Funding****(A) Start-up expenses**

The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Corporation such sums as may be necessary, but not to exceed \$10,000,000, from amounts deposited in the general fund of the Treasury from fees under section 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of title 8 to cover the Corporation's initial expenses and activities under this section. Transfers shall be made at least monthly, immediately following the collection of fees under section 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of title 8, on the basis of estimates by the Secretary, and proper adjustments shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

**(B) Subsequent years**

For each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015, from amounts deposited in the general fund of the Treasury during the preceding fiscal year from fees under section 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of title 8, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer not more than \$100,000,000 to the Fund, which shall be made available to the Corporation, subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, to carry out its functions under this section. Transfers shall be made at least quarterly on the basis of estimates by the Secretary, and proper adjustments shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

**(3) Matching requirement****(A) In general**

No amounts may be made available to the Corporation under this subsection after fiscal year 2011, except to the extent that—

(i) for fiscal year 2012, the Corporation provides matching amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the aggregate to 50 percent or more of the amount transferred to the Fund under paragraph (2); and

(ii) for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2012, the Corporation provides matching

amounts from non-Federal sources equal in the aggregate to 100 percent of the amount transferred to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the fiscal year.

**(B) Goods and services**

For the purpose of determining the amount received from non-Federal sources by the Corporation, other than money—

(i) the fair market value of goods and services (including advertising) contributed to the Corporation for use under this section may be included in the determination; but

(ii) the fair market value of such goods and services may not account for more than 80 percent of the matching requirement under subparagraph (A) for the Corporation in any fiscal year.

**(C) Right of refusal**

The Corporation may decline to accept any contribution in-kind that it determines to be inappropriate, not useful, or commercially worthless.

**(D) Limitation**

The Corporation may not obligate or expend funds in excess of the total amount received by the Corporation for a fiscal year from Federal and non-Federal sources.

**(4) Carryforward**

**(A) Federal funds**

Amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (2)(B) shall remain available until expended.

**(B) Matching funds**

Any amount received by the Corporation from non-Federal sources in fiscal year 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015 that cannot be used to meet the matching requirement under paragraph (3)(A) for the fiscal year in which amount was collected may be carried forward and treated as having been received in the succeeding fiscal year for purposes of meeting the matching requirement of paragraph (3)(A) in such succeeding fiscal year.

**(e) Omitted**

**(f) Assessment authority**

**(1) In general**

Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Corporation may impose an annual assessment on United States members of the international travel and tourism industry (other than those described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(iii) or (H)) represented on the Board in proportion to their share of the aggregate international travel and tourism revenue of the industry. The Corporation shall be responsible for verifying, implementing, and collecting the assessment authorized by this subsection.

**(2) Initial assessment limited**

The Corporation may establish the initial assessment after March 4, 2010, at no greater, in the aggregate, than \$20,000,000.

**(3) Referenda**

**(A) In general**

The Corporation may not impose an annual assessment unless—

(i) the Corporation submits the proposed annual assessment to members of the industry in a referendum; and

(ii) the assessment is approved by a majority of those voting in the referendum.

**(B) Procedural requirements**

In conducting a referendum under this paragraph, the Corporation shall—

(i) provide written or electronic notice not less than 60 days before the date of the referendum;

(ii) describe the proposed assessment or increase and explain the reasons for the referendum in the notice; and

(iii) determine the results of the referendum on the basis of weighted voting apportioned according to each business entity's relative share of the aggregate annual United States international travel and tourism revenue for the industry per business entity, treating all related entities as a single entity.

**(4) Collection**

**(A) In general**

The Corporation shall establish a means of collecting the assessment that it finds to be efficient and effective. The Corporation may establish a late payment charge and rate of interest to be imposed on any person who fails to remit or pay to the Corporation any amount assessed by the Corporation under this section.

**(B) Enforcement**

The Corporation may bring suit in Federal court to compel compliance with an assessment levied by the Corporation under this section.

**(5) Investment of funds**

Pending disbursement pursuant to a program, plan, or project, the Corporation may invest funds collected through assessments, and any other funds received by the Corporation, only in obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in general obligations of any State or any political subdivision thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

**(g), (h) Omitted**

(Pub. L. 111–145, § 9, Mar. 4, 2010, 124 Stat. 56; Pub. L. 111–198, § 5(b), July 2, 2010, 124 Stat. 1357.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), (2)(B), is Pub. L. 87–569, Aug. 6, 1962, 76 Stat. 265, which is not classified to the Code.

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 9 of Pub. L. 111–145. Subsec. (e) of section 9 of Pub. L. 111–145 amended section 1187 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. Subsecs. (g) and (h) of section 9 of Pub. L. 111–145 enacted sections 2123 and 2123a of this title, respectively.

Section was enacted as part of the United States Capitol Police Administrative Technical Corrections Act of

2009, and not as part of the International Travel Act of 1961 which comprises this chapter.

#### AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 111–198, §5(b)(1), (2), substituted “The” for “For fiscal year 2010, the” and “monthly, immediately following the collection of fees under section 1187(h)(3)(B)(i)(I) of title 8,” for “quarterly, beginning on January 1, 2010.”

Subsec. (d)(2)(B). Pub. L. 111–198, §5(b)(3), substituted “fiscal years 2012 through 2015,” for “fiscal years 2011 through 2014.”

Subsec. (d)(3)(A). Pub. L. 111–198, §5(b)(4), (5), substituted “fiscal year 2011,” for “fiscal year 2010,” in introductory provisions and “fiscal year 2012,” for “fiscal year 2011,” in cls. (i) and (ii).

Subsec. (d)(4)(B). Pub. L. 111–198, §5(b)(6), substituted “fiscal year 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015” for “fiscal year 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, or 2014”.

### CHAPTER 31A—NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

#### § 2141. Omitted

##### CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 104–288, §2, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3402, which stated findings of Congress and purpose of this chapter, was omitted because of the repeal of sections 2141a to 2141d of this title.

#### §§ 2141a to 2141d. Repealed. Pub. L. 104–288, § 7(a), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3407

Section 2141a, Pub. L. 104–288, §3, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3403, related to establishment of United States National Tourism Organization.

Section 2141b, Pub. L. 104–288, §4, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3404, related to establishment of United States National Tourism Organization Board.

Section 2141c, Pub. L. 104–288, §5, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3406, related to design and use by Organization of symbols, emblems, trademarks, and names.

Section 2141d, Pub. L. 104–288, §6, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3406; Pub. L. 105–277, div. G, subd. A, title XIII, §1335(o), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–789, related to United States Government cooperation.

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

For effective date of repeal, see Codification note for former section 2141e of this title.

#### §§ 2141e, 2141f. Omitted

##### CODIFICATION

Sections are omitted from the Code because of the repeal of sections 2141a to 2141d of this title.

Section 2141e, Pub. L. 104–288, §7, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3407, provided for the repeal of sections 2141a to 2141d of this title if, within 2 years after Oct. 11, 1996, the United States National Tourism Organization Board had not developed and implemented a comprehensive plan for the long-term financing of the United States National Tourism Organization, and further provided that the Board could suspend or terminate the Organization if sufficient private sector and State or local government funds were not identified or made available to continue the Organization’s operations. [The Board did not develop and implement such a plan within 2 years after Oct. 11, 1996.]

Section 2141f, Pub. L. 104–288, §12, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3410, defined the terms “Organization” and “Board” for purposes of this chapter.

### CHAPTER 32—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

#### SUBCHAPTER I—INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### PART I—DECLARATION OF POLICY; DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec.  
2151. Congressional findings and declaration of policy.

Sec.  
2151–1. Development assistance policy.  
2151a. Agricultural development in rural areas.  
2151a–1. Agricultural research.  
2151b. Population planning and health programs.  
2151b–1. Assistance for malaria prevention, treatment, control, and elimination.  
2151b–2. Assistance to combat HIV/AIDS.  
2151b–3. Assistance to combat tuberculosis.  
2151b–4. Assistance to combat malaria.  
2151c. Education and human resources development.  
2151d. Development of indigenous energy resources.  
2151e. Appropriate technology.  
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2151g. Transfer of funds.  
2151h. Cost-sharing.  
2151i. Development and use of cooperatives.  
2151j. Repealed.  
2151k. Integrating women into national economies; report.  
2151l, 2151m. Repealed.  
2151n. Human rights and development assistance.  
2151n–1. Repealed.  
2151n–2. Human Rights and Democracy Fund.  
2151o. Repealed.  
2151p. Environmental and natural resources.  
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2151r. Sahel development program; planning.  
2151s. Repealed.  
2151t. Development assistance authority.  
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2151u. Private and voluntary organizations and cooperatives in overseas development.  
2151v. Aid to relatively least developed countries.  
2151w. Project and program evaluations.  
2151x. Development and illicit narcotics production.  
2151x–1. Assistance for agricultural and industrial alternatives to narcotics production.  
2151x–2. Assistance in furtherance of narcotics control objectives of United States.  
2151y. Accelerated loan repayments; annual review of countries with bilateral concessional loan balances; priority of determinations respecting negotiations with countries having balances; criteria for determinations.  
2151z. Targeted assistance.  
2151aa. Program to provide technical assistance to foreign governments and foreign central banks of developing or transitional countries.  
2152. Assistance for victims of torture.  
2152a, 2152b. Repealed or Transferred.  
2152c. Programs to encourage good governance.  
2152d. Assistance to foreign countries to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.  
2152e. Program to improve building construction and practices in Latin American countries.  
2152f. Assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children.  
2152g. Annual report.  
2152h. Assistance to provide safe water and sanitation.

##### PART II—OTHER PROGRAMS

##### SUBPART I—MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

2161 to 2165. Repealed.  
2166. Regional development in Africa.