

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the heads of agencies to establish a policy with respect to the deactivation of charge cards of employees separating from the agency, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To require the heads of agencies to establish a policy with respect to the deactivation of charge cards of employees separating from the agency, 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 “Deactivating and  
5       Eliminating Cards Linked to Inactive or Nonexistent Em-  
6       ployees Act” or the “DECLINE Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. DEACTIVATION OF CHARGE CARDS UPON EM-**  
8       **PLOYEE SEPARATION.**

9       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the  
2           meaning given the term in section 5701 of title 5,  
3           United States Code.

4           (2) CHARGE CARD.—The term “charge card”  
5           means a purchase card, travel card, or other form of  
6           Federal Government payment card—

7                   (A) issued by an agency; and

8                   (B) assigned to an employee of an agency.

9           (3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
10          individual”—

11                   (A) means an individual who is discharged,  
12                   separates, retires, or otherwise ceases employ-  
13                   ment with an agency; and

14                   (B) includes an individual who, before the  
15                   discharge, separation, or cease of employment  
16                   described in subparagraph (A), held—

17                           (i) a position described in section  
18                           5312, 5313, 5314, or 5315 of title 5,  
19                           United States Code;

20                           (ii) a noncareer Senior Executive  
21                           Service position, as defined in section  
22                           3132(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

23                           (iii) a position in the executive branch  
24                           of a confidential or policy-determining  
25                           character described in schedule C of sub-

1                   part C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Fed-  
2                   eral Regulations.

3           (b) POLICY.—Not later than 30 days after the date  
4 of enactment of this Act, the chief financial officer or the  
5 functional equivalent officer of each agency, in consulta-  
6 tion with the chief human capital officer or the functional  
7 equivalent of each agency, shall establish and implement  
8 a policy requiring that, as part of the official separation  
9 process from the agency of a covered individual and with  
10 respect to any charge card assigned to the covered indi-  
11 vidual—

12           (1) the covered individual returns the charge  
13 card to the agency;

14           (2) personnel of the agency physically secure  
15 the charge card;

16           (3) the covered individual remove the charge  
17 card from any digital wallet or electronic device  
18 owned by the covered individual or issued to the cov-  
19 ered individual in connection with the employment of  
20 the covered individual at the agency;

21           (4) appropriate agency personnel immediately  
22 deactivate the charge card and close or suspend the  
23 account associated with the charge card in accord-  
24 ance with agency procedures; and

1           (5) appropriate agency personnel report the  
2           charge card to the issuing financial institution as no  
3           longer valid for use or reissuance in connection with  
4           the covered individual.

5           (c) GAO REVIEW OF AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—Not  
6           later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,  
7           and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the  
8           United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland  
9           Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the  
10          Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the  
11          House of Representatives a report that includes—

12           (1) the number of charge cards issued and de-  
13           activated by each agency;

14           (2) the extent to which agencies have estab-  
15           lished internal controls to monitor charge card use  
16           and address misuse, fraud, or redundant card  
17           issuance;

18           (3) the status of the implementation of sub-  
19           section (b) by each agency;

20           (4) the total amount each agency paid in charge  
21           card late fees during the preceding 1-year period;  
22           and

23           (5) the extent to which agencies submit re-  
24           quired management reports through the electronic  
25           access system of the bank with which the agency has

- 1 a contract, including a summary of the report data
- 2 of selected agencies, such as account activity, dis-
- 3 putes, and unusual spending patterns.