

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2308

To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2025

Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. COTTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, 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 “Protecting America’s
5 Treasures by Raising Inflow from Overseas Tourists
6 Parks Act” or the “PATRIOT Parks Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SURCHARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO**
2 **UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

3 (a) **ENTRANCE FEE SURCHARGE.**—Section 803(e) of
4 the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16
5 U.S.C. 6802(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(3) **ENTRANCE FEE SURCHARGE FOR INTER-**
8 **NATIONAL VISITORS.**—

9 “(A) **DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL VIS-**
10 **ITOR.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘inter-
11 national visitor’ means a nonimmigrant indi-
12 vidual admitted into the United States under—

13 “(i) section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Im-
14 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
15 1101(a)(15)(B)); or

16 “(ii) section 217 of the Immigration
17 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187).

18 “(B) **ENTRANCE FEE SURCHARGE.**—

19 “(i) **IN GENERAL.**—For any unit of
20 the National Park System for which an en-
21 trance fee is charged, the Secretary may,
22 at the election of the Secretary, or shall,
23 on request of the superintendent of the ap-
24 plicable unit of the National Park System,
25 authorize the superintendent of the appli-
26 cable unit of the National Park System to

1 establish for any international visitors
2 charged the entrance fee a surcharge in an
3 amount established by the superintendent
4 of the applicable unit of the National Park
5 System, by regulation, to be collected by
6 the Secretary in accordance with this para-
7 graph.

8 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF SURCHARGE
9 AMOUNT.—In establishing the amount of a
10 surcharge under clause (i), the super-
11 intendent of the applicable unit of the Na-
12 tional Park System shall ensure that the
13 amount maximizes revenue for the applica-
14 ble unit of the National Park System while
15 retaining international visitation at the ap-
16 plicable unit of the National Park System.

17 “(iii) PER-VEHICLE FEE.—In a case
18 in which an entrance fee to a unit of the
19 National Park System subject to a sur-
20 charge under clause (i) is a per-vehicle
21 charge, the Secretary shall establish, by
22 regulation, a process for the super-
23 intendent of the applicable unit of the Na-
24 tional Park System to proportionately levy

1 and collect the surcharge from inter-
2 national visitors under that clause.

3 “(iv) METHODS OF COLLECTION.—A
4 surcharge established under clause (i) shall
5 be collected—

6 “(I) by the Secretary, using the
7 standard methods by which entrance
8 fees may be collected for a unit of the
9 National Park System under this sec-
10 tion; and

11 “(II) if the Secretary enters into
12 an agreement with a third-party travel
13 vendor to provide for the collection of
14 the surcharge, by the applicable third-
15 party travel vendor, in accordance
16 with the agreement.

17 “(v) SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION;
18 INCREASE.—

19 “(I) SUSPENSION OR MODIFICA-
20 TION.—At the election of the Sec-
21 retary or on request of the super-
22 intendent of a unit of the National
23 Park System at which a surcharge is
24 established under clause (i), the Sec-
25 retary may suspend the collection of,

1 or otherwise modify, the surcharge for
2 the applicable unit of the National
3 Park System, including providing for
4 tiered pricing of the surcharge based
5 on visitation levels at the unit of the
6 National Park System, as determined
7 appropriate by the Secretary.

8 “(II) INCREASE.—The Secretary
9 may establish a minimum percentage
10 increase that shall apply to a sur-
11 charge established by a super-
12 intendent under clause (i) within an
13 applicable timeframe established by
14 the Secretary.

15 “(vi) VISA FEES; ADMINISTRATION.—
16 A surcharge established under clause (i)—

17 “(I) shall be in addition to, and
18 separate from, any statutory immi-
19 grant visa fee charged to an inter-
20 national visitor; and

21 “(II) shall not be subject to ad-
22 ministration by the Secretary of State
23 or the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
24 rity.

1 “(vii) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—
2 Notwithstanding any other provision of
3 law, all proceeds from a surcharge on
4 international visitors collected under this
5 paragraph shall be retained by the applica-
6 ble unit of the National Park System at
7 which the surcharge was collected, to be
8 distributed by the Secretary for mainte-
9 nance, visitor services, staffing, and related
10 needs at the unit of the National Park
11 System, as determined appropriate by the
12 Secretary.”.

13 (b) RECREATION PASSES.—Section 805(a) of the
14 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
15 6804(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(11) SURCHARGE FOR CERTAIN INTER-
17 NATIONAL VISITORS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 establish, by regulation, a surcharge to be col-
20 lected from the sale of any National Parks and
21 Federal Recreational Lands Pass to an inter-
22 national visitor (as defined in section
23 803(e)(3)(A)), the amount of which may be in-
24 creased by the Secretary in a percentage and in

1 a timeframe determined to be reasonable by the
2 Secretary.

3 “(B) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Not-
4 withstanding any other provision of law, any
5 amounts collected as a surcharge under sub-
6 paragraph (A) shall be deposited in the Na-
7 tional Parks and Public Land Legacy Restora-
8 tion Fund established by section 200402(a) of
9 title 54, United States Code.”.

○