

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1836

To establish appropriate procedures and sanctions to ensure that unpaid parking fines and penalties owed to New York City by foreign countries are paid.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2011

Mr. GRIMM (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish appropriate procedures and sanctions to ensure that unpaid parking fines and penalties owed to New York City by foreign countries are paid.

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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The City of New York is host to the diplo-
6 matic representatives of 289 missions and consulates
7 of foreign countries located in the city.

8 (2) Foreign diplomats in New York City in-
9 curred more than \$17.2 million dollars in fines and

1 penalties on parking tickets issued by the municipi-
2 pality.

3 (3) Many of the parking fines were issued due
4 to safety violations, including the blocking of fire hy-
5 drants, which put lives of residents of the city in
6 danger.

7 (4) The legal doctrine of diplomatic immunity
8 prohibits the imposition of traditional sanctions to
9 ensure payment of such parking fines.

10 (5) Section 545 of the Foreign Operations, Ex-
11 port Financing, and Related Programs Appropria-
12 tions Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115) provided that
13 “an amount equivalent to 110 percent of the total
14 unpaid fully adjudicated parking fines and penalties
15 owed to the District of Columbia and New York
16 City, New York by such country as of the date of
17 the enactment of this Act that were incurred after
18 the first day of the fiscal year preceding the current
19 fiscal year shall be withheld from obligation for such
20 country until the Secretary of State certifies and re-
21 ports in writing to the appropriate congressional
22 committees that such fines and penalties are fully
23 paid to the governments of the District of Columbia
24 and New York City, New York”.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-
2 lish appropriate procedures and sanctions to ensure that
3 parking fines and penalties incurred in New York, New
4 York, by foreign countries are paid.

5 **SEC. 2. SANCTIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever a foreign country owes
7 to New York, New York, unpaid fully adjudicated parking
8 fines and penalties as of September 15 of each year, and
9 until the Secretary of State receives certification that such
10 fines and penalties have been paid—

11 (1) the Secretary of State shall deny the
12 issuance or renewal of any diplomatic license plates
13 for vehicles for that country;

14 (2) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
15 the Secretary of State shall withhold from obligation
16 funds available for that country under part I of the
17 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; and

18 (3) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
19 unobligated funds available for that country under
20 part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 are au-
21 thorized to be reappropriated to pay any fully adju-
22 dicated parking fines and penalties owed by that
23 country to New York, New York.

24 (b) STANDARD FOR DETERMINATION.—For the pur-
25 poses of this Act, the term “fully adjudicated” includes

1 circumstances in which the registrant has not responded
2 to the parking violation summons or has not followed the
3 appropriate adjudication procedure to challenge the sum-
4 mons and the period of time for payment or challenge of
5 the summons has lapsed.

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