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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 2003)

President Ford today signed the U.S. Travel Service Authorization Act, which reinstates a domestic tourism program and authorizes appropriations for the international and domestic tourism programs of the U.S. Travel Service.

BACKGROUND

Tourism in the United States is a \$61 billion industry. Approximately 4 million jobs are sustained by the manufacture of products and the provision of services required by tourists. However, tourism within the Nation has not reached its full potential. And, importantly, the United States has a net international travel deficit of about \$3 billion because of insufficient tourism from abroad.

In May, the President vetoed an earlier tourism bill (H.R. 5357). The primary reason for the veto was the President's objection to the proposed domestic tourism program to encourage Americans to travel within the United States. He felt that promotion and management of domestic tourism would remain the responsibility of the private sector and of state and local governments.

The President's objections have been satisfied in this new compromise legislation that only provides support for domestic tourism programs "which are in the public interest and which do not compete with activities of any State, city or private agency."

FEATURES OF THE U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE AUTHORIZATION ACT

1. Foreign Tourism

The Act authorizes appropriations totalling \$90 million for the period July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1979 for the program of the U.S. Travel Service (in the Department of Commerce to promote foreign tourism in the United States.

2. Domestic Tourism

The Act reinstates a domestic tourism program to encourage Americans to travel within the United States and authorizes appropriations totalling \$8,125,000 for the period July 1, 1975 to September 30, 1978.

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