

TSA FEES – THEY ARE A-CHANGING

*SECURITY SERVICE FEES FOR ONE-WAY TRIP FROM \$2.50 - \$5.60

*ONE-WAY-TRIP COULD INCLUDE LAYOVERS

*IF LAYOVER LASTS MORE THAN 4 HRS. OR MORE ANOTHER \$5.60 CHARGED

According to Mark Murphy, CEO of TRAVEL PULSE, “The fees just keep coming, as the government continues to use the travel industry as their own personal ATM to solve bad budgeting”.

The new fees will add up to nearly \$17 BILLION windfall for the federal government! Mark Murphy again “Thin that will add up to more organization and shorter security lines at the airport? Don’t hold your breath.”

So a basic round trip where the TSA fees were \$5.00 (\$2.50 each direction and \$5 round trip) the fee will now be \$5.60 each direction for a total cost of \$11.20.

This additional fee was going to go up beginning July 1 but it is July 21st that the fees will be implemented. Though there is a desire for travelers to have adequate security, the problem is that not all of the funds are going into the TSA, but a portion is going to go directly into the government GENERAL FUND.

One of the reasons stated, for the increase for travelers is the desire to have those who travel the most add to the government coffers. However, the business traveler, the most frequent traveler and the ones targeted to pay more into the fund, actually are TSA PRE=CHECK customers or GLOBAL ENTRY customers and they are waived past TSA, not utilizing the more extensive screening..

Unfortunately, travelers will blame the airlines when in fact it is the government! This hurts fliers who have to endure long layovers through no fault of their own, and, as Charles Leocha, a consumer advocate who heads the group Travelers United, told USA Today “For some reason, the government thinks that airline passengers are a bottomless piggy bank. “

The new TSA interpretation of a round-trip now means that security fees may increase as much as 180 percent under the new tax bill just passed by Congress.

ASTA’s (American Society of Travel Agents) position on this topic from 6/25/2014 “While the operational impact on travel agencies will be minimal, ASTA remains concerned about recent increases in the already significant tax burden on air travel, especially when, as in this case, some of the revenue raised is devoted to general deficit reduction rather than aviation security.”

HAPPY TRAVELS.