

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 654

To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 1999

Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. CAMPBELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site.

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 “Congressional Re-
5 search Accessibility Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CRS INFORMATION.**

7 (a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Con-
9 gressional Research Service shall make available

1 through a centralized electronic database, for pur-
2 poses of access and retrieval by the public as de-
3 scribed in section 2, all information described in
4 paragraph (2) that is available through the Congres-
5 sional Research Service website.

6 (2) INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—

7 The information to be made available under para-
8 graph (1) is:

9 (A) Congressional Research Service Issue
10 Briefs.

11 (B) Congressional Research Service Re-
12 ports that are available to Members of Congress
13 through the Congressional Research Service
14 website.

15 (C) Congressional Research Service Au-
16 thorization of Appropriations Products and Ap-
17 propriations Products.

18 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

19 (1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection

20 (a) does not apply to—

21 (A) any information that is confidential, as
22 determined by—

23 (i) the Director, or

1 (ii) the head of a Federal department
2 or agency that provided the information to
3 the Congressional Research Service; or

4 (B) any document that is the product of
5 an individual, office, or committee research re-
6 quest, other than any document described in
7 subsection (a)(2).

8 (2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying
9 out this section, the Director of the Congressional
10 Research Service may—

11 (A) remove from the information required
12 to be made available under subsection (a) the
13 name and phone number of, and any other in-
14 formation regarding, an employee of the Con-
15 gressional Research Service;

16 (B) remove from the information required
17 to be made available under subsection (a) any
18 material for which the Director determines that
19 making it available under subsection (a) may
20 infringe the copyright of a work protected
21 under title 17, United States Code; and

22 (C) make any changes in the information
23 required to be made available under subsection
24 (a) that the Director determines necessary to

1 ensure that the information is accurate and
2 current.

3 (c) **TIME.**—The Director of the Congressional Re-
4 search Service shall make available all information re-
5 quired under this section no earlier than 30 days and no
6 later than 40 days after the date on which the information
7 is first made available to Members of Congress through
8 the Congressional Research Service website.

9 (d) **MANNER.**—The Director of the Congressional Re-
10 search Service shall make information required to be made
11 available under this section in a manner that—

12 (1) is practical and reasonable; and

13 (2) does not permit the submission of comments
14 from the public.

15 **SEC. 3. METHOD OF ACCESS.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Public access to information made
17 available under this Act shall be provided through the
18 websites maintained by Members and committees of the
19 House of Representatives. The Director of the Congres-
20 sional Research Service and the Chief Administrative Offi-
21 cer of the House of Representatives shall work together
22 to carry out this subsection.

23 (b) **EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRS REPORTS**
24 **ONLINE.**—The Director of the Congressional Research
25 Service is responsible for maintaining and updating the

1 information made available on the Internet under section
2 1, and shall have sole discretion to edit that information
3 under this Act.

4 (c) FURTHER APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
5 standing any other provision of law to the contrary, the
6 Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make
7 the information required to be made available under sec-
8 tion 1 without the prior approval of the Committee on
9 Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Committee
10 on House Administration of the House of Representatives,
11 or the Joint Committee on Printing.

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