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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Research Accessibility Act”.

SECTION 2. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CRS INFORMATION.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make available
through a centralized electronic database, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public as described in section 2, all information described in paragraph (2) that is available through the Congressional Research Service website.

(2) INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—
The information to be made available under paragraph (1) is:

(A) Congressional Research Service Issue Briefs.

(B) Congressional Research Service Reports that are available to Members of Congress through the Congressional Research Service website.

(C) Congressional Research Service Authorization of Appropriations Products and Appropriations Products.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to—

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

(i) the Director, or
(ii) the head of a Federal department

or agency that provided the information to

the Congressional Research Service; or

(B) any document that is the product of

an individual, office, or committee research re-

quest, other than any document described in

subsection (a)(2).

(2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying

out this section, the Director of the Congressional

Research Service may—

(A) remove from the information required

to be made available under subsection (a) the

name and phone number of, and any other in-

formation regarding, an employee of the Con-

gressional Research Service;

(B) remove from the information required

to be made available under subsection (a) any

material for which the Director determines that

making it available under subsection (a) may

infringe the copyright of a work protected

under title 17, United States Code; and

(C) make any changes in the information

required to be made available under subsection

(a) that the Director determines necessary to
ensure that the information is accurate and current.

(c) Time.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make available all information required under this section no earlier than 30 days and no later than 40 days after the date on which the information is first made available to Members of Congress through the Congressional Research Service website.

(d) Manner.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make information required to be made available under this section in a manner that—

(1) is practical and reasonable; and

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

SEC. 3. METHOD OF ACCESS.

(a) In General.—Public access to information made available under this Act shall be provided through the websites maintained by Members and committees of the House of Representatives. The Director of the Congressional Research Service and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall work together to carry out this subsection.

(b) Editorial Responsibility for CRS Reports Online.—The Director of the Congressional Research Service is responsible for maintaining and updating the
information made available on the Internet under section 1, and shall have sole discretion to edit that information under this Act.

(c) FURTHER APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make the information required to be made available under section 1 without the prior approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, or the Joint Committee on Printing.