

Union Calendar No. 503

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1974

[Report No. 112-663, Part I]

To require the Public Printer to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. LYNCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with an amendment

[Insert the part printed in *italic*]

SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Referral to the Committee on House Administration extended for a period ending not later than October 1, 2012

OCTOBER 1, 2012

Additional sponsors: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KIND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. AMASH

OCTOBER 1, 2012

The Committee on House Administration discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require the Public Printer to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

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 “Access to Congression-
5 ally Mandated Reports Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE FOR CONGRESSION-**
7 **ALLY MANDATED REPORTS.**

8 (a) **REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH WEBSITE.**—Not
9 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act, the Public Printer shall establish and maintain a
11 website accessible by the public that allows the public to
12 obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated re-
13 ports in one place. The Public Printer may publish other
14 reports on such website.

15 (b) **CONTENT AND FUNCTION.**—The Public Printer
16 shall ensure that the website required under subsection (a)
17 includes the following:

18 (1) With respect to each congressionally man-
19 dated report, each of the following:

20 (A) A citation to the statute or conference
21 report requiring the report.

22 (B) An electronic copy of the report, in-
23 cluding any transmittal letter associated with
24 the report, in an open format that is platform
25 independent and that is available to the public

1 without restrictions, including restrictions that
2 would impede the re-use of the information in
3 the report.

4 (C) The ability to retrieve a report, to the
5 extent practicable, through searches based on
6 each, and any combination, of the following:

7 (i) The title of the report.

8 (ii) The reporting Federal agency.

9 (iii) The date of publication.

10 (iv) Each congressional committee re-
11 ceiving the report, if applicable.

12 (v) Subject tags.

13 (vi) The serial number, Super-
14 intendent of Documents number, or other
15 identification number for the report, if ap-
16 plicable.

17 (vii) The statute or conference report
18 requiring the report.

19 (viii) Key words.

20 (ix) Full text search.

21 (x) Any other relevant information
22 specified by the Public Printer.

23 (D) The time and date when the report
24 was required to be submitted, and when the re-
25 port was submitted, to the website.

1 (E) Access to the report not later than 30
2 calendar days after its submission to Congress.

3 (F) To the extent practicable, a permanent
4 means of accessing the report electronically.

5 (2) A means for bulk download of all congress-
6 sionally mandated reports or a selection of reports
7 retrieved using a search.

8 (3) A means for the head of each Federal agen-
9 cy to publish on the website each congressionally
10 mandated report of the agency, as required by sec-
11 tion 3.

12 (4) A list form for all congressionally mandated
13 reports that can be searched, sorted, and
14 downloaded by—

15 (A) reports submitted within the required
16 time;

17 (B) reports submitted after the date on
18 which such reports were required to be sub-
19 mitted; and

20 (C) reports not submitted.

21 (c) FREE ACCESS.—The Public Printer may not
22 charge a fee, require registration, or impose any other lim-
23 itation in exchange for access to the website required
24 under subsection (a).

1 (d) UPGRADE CAPABILITY.—The website required
2 under subsection (a) shall be enhanced and updated as
3 necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

5 (a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF RE-
6 PORTS.—The head of each Federal agency shall publish
7 congressionally mandated reports of the agency on the
8 website required under section 2(a)—

9 (1) in an open format that is platform inde-
10 pendent, machine readable, and available to the pub-
11 lic without restrictions (except the redaction of infor-
12 mation described under section 5), including restric-
13 tions that would impede the re-use of the informa-
14 tion in the reports; and

15 (2) in accordance with the guidance issued
16 under subsection (c).

17 (b) SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—
18 The head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Pub-
19 lic Printer the information required under subparagraphs
20 (A) through (D) of section 2(b)(1) with respect to each
21 congressionally mandated report published pursuant to
22 subsection (a).

23 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than eight months after
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
25 Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with

1 the Public Printer, shall issue guidance to agencies on the
2 implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO REQUIREMENTS TO SUBMIT RE-**
4 **PORTS TO CONGRESS.**

5 (a) COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENT
6 TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
7 sion of law, a Federal agency is deemed to have complied
8 with a statutory requirement to submit a report to Con-
9 gress if the agency completes each of the following, with
10 respect to such report:

11 (1) Publishes a complete and unredacted copy
12 on the website required under section 2(a).

13 (2) Notifies the Clerk of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and each
15 congressional committee to which a report must be
16 submitted of the report's availability on the website.

17 (b) REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS.—A report
18 submitted to be published to the website required under
19 section 2(a) may only be changed or removed, *with the*
20 *exception of technical changes*, by the Federal agency with
21 the express, written consent of each congressional com-
22 mittee to which the report must be submitted.

1 **SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**
2 **ACT.**

3 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the
4 disclosure of information or records that are exempt from
5 public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United
6 States Code. If any information in a congressionally man-
7 dated report may not be publicly released under section
8 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Federal agency
9 concerned shall redact from the report submitted to be
10 published on the website established under section 2 only
11 such information, shall indicate where such redactions
12 were made in the report, and shall identify the exemption
13 under which each such redaction is made.

14 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.—

17 The term “congressionally mandated report” means
18 a report that is required to be submitted to either
19 House of Congress or any committee of Congress by
20 statute or by a conference report that accompanies
21 legislation enacted into law.

22 (2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
23 agency” has the meaning given that term under sec-
24 tion 102 of title 40, United States Code, but does
25 not include the Government Accountability Office.

1 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 Except as provided in section 3(c), this Act shall be
3 implemented not later than one year after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to con-
5 gressionally mandated reports submitted to Congress on
6 or after the date occurring one year after such date of
7 enactment.

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