

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3159

To direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BONNER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President, in consultation with the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Defense, to establish guidelines for United States foreign assistance programs, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Aid Trans-
3 parency and Accountability Act of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. GUIDELINES FOR UNITED STATES FOREIGN ASSIST-**
5 **ANCE PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to
7 evaluate the performance of United States foreign assist-
8 ance programs and their contribution to policy, strategies,
9 projects, program goals, and priorities undertaken by the
10 Federal Government, to foster and promote innovative
11 programs to improve the effectiveness of such programs,
12 and to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation processes
13 of Federal departments and agencies that administer such
14 programs.

15 (b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES.**—The Presi-
16 dent, in consultation with the Department of State,
17 United States Agency for International Development, Mil-
18 lennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of
19 Defense, shall establish guidelines regarding the establish-
20 ment of measurable goals, performance metrics, and moni-
21 toring and evaluation plans that can be applied on a uni-
22 form basis to United States foreign assistance programs,
23 country assistance plans, and international and multilat-
24 eral assistance programs receiving financial assistance
25 from the United States. Such guidelines shall be estab-

1 lished according to best practices of monitoring and eval-
2 uation studies and analyses.

3 (c) OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such guidelines shall provide
5 direction to Federal departments and agencies that
6 administer United States foreign assistance pro-
7 grams on how to develop the complete range of ac-
8 tivities relating to the monitoring of resources, the
9 evaluation of projects, the evaluation of program im-
10 pacts, and analysis that is necessary for the identi-
11 fication of findings, generalizations that can be de-
12 rived from those findings, and their applicability to
13 proposed project and program design.

14 (2) OBJECTIVES.—Specifically, the guidelines
15 shall provide direction on how to achieve the fol-
16 lowing objectives for monitoring and evaluation pro-
17 grams:

18 (A) Building measurable goals, perform-
19 ance metrics and monitoring and evaluation
20 into program design at the outset, including the
21 provision of sufficient program resources to
22 conduct monitoring and evaluation.

23 (B) Disseminating guidelines for the devel-
24 opment and implementation of monitoring and
25 evaluation programs to all personnel, especially

1 in the field, who are responsible for the design,
2 implementation and management of foreign as-
3 sistance programs.

4 (C) Developing a clearinghouse capacity
5 for the dissemination of knowledge and lessons
6 learned to United States development profes-
7 sionals, implementing partners, the inter-
8 national aid community, and aid recipient gov-
9 ernments, and as a repository of knowledge on
10 lessons learned.

11 (D) Distributing evaluation reports inter-
12 nally and making this material available online
13 to the public. Furthermore, providing a sum-
14 mary including a description of methods, key
15 findings and recommendations to the public on-
16 line in a fully searchable form within 90 days
17 after the completion of the evaluation. Prin-
18 ciple exceptions will be made in cases of classi-
19 fied or proprietary material.

20 (E) Establishing annual monitoring and
21 evaluation agendas and objectives that are re-
22 sponsive to policy and programmatic priorities.

23 (F) Applying rigorous monitoring and eval-
24 uation methodologies, choosing from among a
25 wide variety of qualitative and quantitative

1 methods common in the field of social scientific
2 inquiry.

3 (G) Partnering with the academic commu-
4 nity, implementing partners, and national and
5 international institutions that have expertise in
6 monitoring and evaluation and analysis when
7 such partnerships will provide needed expertise
8 or will significantly improve the evaluation and
9 analysis.

10 (H) Developing and implementing a train-
11 ing plan for aid personnel on the proper con-
12 duct of monitoring and evaluation programs.

13 (d) ROLE OF OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND
14 AGENCIES.—The President shall carry out this section in
15 conjunction with the heads of Federal departments and
16 agencies that administer United States foreign assistance
17 programs.

18 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit
20 to Congress a report that contains a detailed description
21 of the guidelines that have been developed on measurable
22 goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evalua-
23 tion plans for United States foreign assistance programs
24 established under this section.

1 (f) EVALUATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term
2 “evaluation” means, with respect to a United States for-
3 eign assistance program, the systematic collection and
4 analysis of information about the characteristics and out-
5 comes of the program and projects under the program as
6 a basis for judgments, to improve effectiveness, and to in-
7 form decisions about current and future programming.

8 **SEC. 3. INTERNET WEB SITE TO MAKE PUBLICLY AVAIL-**
9 **ABLE COMPREHENSIVE, TIMELY, COM-**
10 **PARABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION**
11 **ON UNITED STATES FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**
12 **PROGRAMS.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT; PUBLICATION AND UP-
14 DATES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the en-
15 actment of this Act, the President shall establish and
16 maintain an Internet Web site to make publicly available
17 comprehensive, timely, comparable, and accessible infor-
18 mation on United States foreign assistance programs. The
19 head of each Federal department or agency that admin-
20 isters such programs shall on a regular basis publish and
21 update on the Web site such information with respect to
22 the programs of the department or agency.

23 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Such information shall be
2 published on a detailed program-by-program basis
3 and country-by-country basis.

4 (2) TYPES OF INFORMATION.—To ensure trans-
5 parency, accountability, and effectiveness of United
6 States foreign assistance programs, the information
7 shall include country assistance strategies, annual
8 budget documents, congressional budget justifica-
9 tions, actual expenditures, and reports and evalua-
10 tions for such programs and projects under such
11 programs. Each type of information described in this
12 paragraph shall be published on the Web site not
13 later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the
14 information and shall be continuously updated.

15 (3) REPORT IN LIEU OF INCLUSION.—If the
16 head of a Federal department or agency makes a de-
17 termination that the inclusion of a required item of
18 information on the Web site would jeopardize the
19 health or security of an implementing partner or
20 program beneficiary or would be detrimental to the
21 national interests of the United States, such item of
22 information may be submitted to Congress in a writ-
23 ten report in lieu of including it on the Web site,
24 along with the reasons for not including it in the
25 database required under subsection (c)(2).

1 (c) SCOPE OF INFORMATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Web site shall contain
3 such information relating to the current fiscal year
4 and the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years.

5 (2) DATABASE.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
7 graph (B), the Web site shall also contain a
8 link to a searchable database available to the
9 public containing such information relating to
10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year and
11 the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years.

12 (B) LIMITATION.—The database shall not
13 contain such information relating to fiscal years
14 prior to fiscal year 2006.

15 (d) FORM.—Such information shall be published on
16 the Web site in unclassified form. Any information deter-
17 mined to be classified information may be submitted to
18 Congress in classified form and an unclassified summary
19 of such information shall be published on the Web site.

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