

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1380

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

MARCH 21, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. AMASH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COOPER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KIND, and Mr. POLIS) 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

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”.

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

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

10 (b) CONTENT AND FUNCTION.—The Public Printer
11 shall ensure that the website required under subsection (a)
12 includes the following:

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

15 (A) A citation to the statute or conference
16 report requiring the report.

17 (B) An electronic copy of the report, in-
18 cluding any transmittal letter associated with
19 the report, in an open format that is platform
20 independent and that is available to the public
21 without restrictions, including restrictions that
22 would impede the re-use of the information in
23 the report.

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

- 1 (i) The title of the report.
- 2 (ii) The reporting Federal agency.
- 3 (iii) The date of publication.
- 4 (iv) Each congressional committee re-
- 5 ceiving the report, if applicable.
- 6 (v) Subject tags.
- 7 (vi) The serial number, Superinten-
- 8 dent of Documents number, or other iden-
- 9 tification number for the report, if applica-
- 10 ble.
- 11 (vii) The statute or conference report
- 12 requiring the report.
- 13 (viii) Key words.
- 14 (ix) Full text search.
- 15 (x) Any other relevant information
- 16 specified by the Public Printer.
- 17 (D) The time and date when the report
- 18 was required to be submitted, and when the re-
- 19 port was submitted, to the website.
- 20 (E) Access to the report not later than 30
- 21 calendar days after its submission to Congress.
- 22 (F) To the extent practicable, a permanent
- 23 means of accessing the report electronically.

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

4 (3) A means for the head of each Federal agen-
5 cy to publish on the website each congressionally
6 mandated report of the agency, as required by sec-
7 tion 3.

8 (4) A list form for all congressionally mandated
9 reports that can be searched, sorted, and down-
10 loaded by—

11 (A) reports submitted within the required
12 time;

13 (B) reports submitted after the date on
14 which such reports were required to be sub-
15 mitted; and

16 (C) reports not submitted.

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

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

1 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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

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

12 (2) in accordance with the guidance issued
13 under subsection (c).

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

20 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than eight months after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
22 Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with
23 the Public Printer, shall issue guidance to agencies on the
24 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS.**

2 A report submitted to be published to the website re-
3 quired under section 2(a) may only be changed or re-
4 moved, with the exception of technical changes, by the
5 head of the Federal agency concerned with the express,
6 written consent of the chairman of each congressional
7 committee to which the report is submitted.

8 **SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMA-**
9 **TION ACT.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
11 strued to require the disclosure of information or records
12 that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552
13 of title 5, United States Code, or to impose any affirmative
14 duty on the Public Printer to review congressionally man-
15 dated reports submitted for publication to the website es-
16 tablished under section 2(a) for the purpose of identifying
17 and redacting such information or records.

18 (b) REDACTION OF REPORT.—With respect to each
19 congressionally mandated report, the relevant head of each
20 Federal agency shall redact any information that may not
21 be publicly released under section 552(b) of title 5, United
22 States Code, before submission for publication on the
23 website established under section 2(a), and shall—

24 (1) redact only such information from the re-
25 port;

1 (2) identify where any such redaction is made
2 in the report; and

3 (3) identify the exemption under which each
4 such redaction is made.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.—

8 The term “congressionally mandated report” means
9 a report that is required to be submitted to either
10 House of Congress or any committee of Congress by
11 statute or by a conference report that accompanies
12 legislation enacted into law.

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

17 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION.**

18 Except as provided in section 3(c), this Act shall be
19 implemented not later than one year after the date of the
20 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to con-
21 gressionally mandated reports submitted to Congress on
22 or after the date occurring one year after such date of
23 enactment.

○