

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2206

To streamline the collection and distribution of government information.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2014

Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To streamline the collection and distribution of government
information.

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 “Let Me Google That
5 For You Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The National Technical Information Service
9 (referred to in this Act as “NTIS”), the National
10 Archives and Records Administration, the Govern-

1 ment Accountability Office (referred to in this sec-
2 tion as “GAO”), and the Library of Congress all col-
3 lect, categorize, and distribute government informa-
4 tion.

5 (2) NTIS was established in 1950, more than
6 40 years before the creation of the Internet.

7 (3) NTIS is tasked with collecting and distrib-
8 uting government-funded scientific, technical, engi-
9 neering, and business-related information and re-
10 ports.

11 (4) GAO found that NTIS sold only 8 percent
12 of the 2,500,000 reports in its collection between
13 1995 and 2000.

14 (5) A November 2012 GAO review of NTIS
15 made the following conclusions:

16 (A) “Of the reports added to NTIS’s re-
17 pository during fiscal years 1990 through 2011,
18 GAO estimates that approximately 74 percent
19 were readily available from other public
20 sources.”.

21 (B) “These reports were often available ei-
22 ther from the issuing organization’s website, the
23 Federal Internet portal (<http://www.USA.gov>)
24 or from another source located through a web
25 search.”.

1 (C) “The source that most often had the
2 report [GAO] was searching for was another
3 website located through [http://](http://www.Google.com)
4 www.Google.com.”.

5 (D) “95 percent of the reports available
6 from sources other than NTIS were available
7 free of charge.”.

8 (6) No Federal agency should use taxpayer dol-
9 lars to purchase a report from the National Tech-
10 nical Information Service that is available through
11 the Internet for free.

12 (7) As far back as 1999, Secretary of Com-
13 merce William Daley—

14 (A) admitted that the National Technical
15 Information Service would eventually outlive its
16 usefulness and be unable to sustain its revenue-
17 losing profit model;

18 (B) explained that “declining sales reve-
19 nues soon would not be sufficient to recover all
20 of NTIS’ operating costs”; and

21 (C) attributed this “decline to other agen-
22 cies’ practice of making their research results
23 available to the public for free through the
24 Web”.

1 (8) According to the November 2012 GAO re-
2 port—

3 (A) “NTIS product expenditures exceeded
4 revenues for 10 out of the past 11 fiscal
5 years.”;

6 (B) “The agency lost, on average, about
7 \$1.3 million over the last 11 years on its prod-
8 ucts.”; and

9 (C) “The decline in revenue for its prod-
10 ucts continues to call into question whether
11 NTIS’s basic statutory function of acting as a
12 self-financing repository and disseminator of
13 scientific and technical information is still via-
14 ble.”.

15 (9) NTIS has compensated for its lost revenue
16 by charging other Federal agencies for various serv-
17 ices that are not associated with NTIS’s primary
18 mission.

19 (10) Future technological advances will ensure
20 that the services offered by NTIS are even more su-
21 perfluous for essential government functions than
22 they are today.

23 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE.**

24 (a) REPEAL.—Effective on the date that is 1 year
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National

1 Technical Information Act of 1988 (subtitle B of title II
2 of Public Law 100–519; 15 U.S.C. 3704b) is repealed.

3 (b) TRANSFER OF CRITICAL FUNCTIONS.—

4 (1) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
5 retary of Commerce, the Archivist of the United
6 States, the Comptroller General of the United
7 States, and the Commissioner of Social Security
8 shall consult with the Director of the Office of Man-
9 agement and Budget to determine if any function of
10 the National Technical Information Service is crit-
11 ical to the economy of the United States.

12 (2) GAO CERTIFICATION.—The Comptroller
13 General of the United States shall determine which
14 of the critical functions identified pursuant to para-
15 graph (1) are not being carried out by any other
16 agency or instrumentality of the Federal Govern-
17 ment.

18 (3) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Before the ef-
19 fective date set forth in subsection (a), the Secretary
20 of Commerce may transfer the responsibility for any
21 critical function of NTIS (as identified under para-
22 graph (1)) that is not otherwise being carried out
23 (as determined under paragraph (2)) to another of-
24 fice within the Department of Commerce.

1 (c) ABOLITION OF FUNCTIONS.—Except for the func-
2 tions transferred pursuant to subsection (b), all functions
3 of the National Technical Information Service immediately
4 before the repeal date described in subsection (a) are abol-
5 ished on such repeal date.

6 **SEC. 4. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATION.**

7 Before the effective date set forth in section 3(a), the
8 Secretary of Commerce shall submit a written certification
9 to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Com-
10 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives that all of the operations of the National
12 Technical Information Service have been terminated.

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