

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1004

To amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. FARENTHOLD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, 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 “Regulatory Integrity
5 Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO**
2 **PENDING REGULATORY ACTIONS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the
5 following new section:

6 **“§ 307. Information regarding pending agency regu-**
7 **latory action**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) AGENCY REGULATORY ACTION.—The term
10 ‘agency regulatory action’ means guidance, policy
11 statement, directive, rule making, or adjudication
12 issued by an Executive agency.

13 “(2) PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.—The term
14 ‘public communication’—

15 “(A) means any method (including written,
16 oral, or electronic) of disseminating information
17 to the public, including an agency statement
18 (written or verbal), blog, video, audio recording,
19 or other social media message; and

20 “(B) does not include a notice published in
21 the Federal Register pursuant to section 553 or
22 any requirement to publish pursuant to this
23 section.

24 “(3) RULE MAKING.—The term ‘rule making’
25 has the meaning given that term under section 551.

26 “(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED ONLINE.—

1 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each Execu-
2 tive agency shall make publicly available in a search-
3 able format in a prominent location either on the
4 website of the Executive agency or in the rule mak-
5 ing docket on Regulations.gov the following informa-
6 tion:

7 “(A) PENDING AGENCY REGULATORY AC-
8 TION.—A list of each pending agency regulatory
9 action and with regard to each such action—

10 “(i) the date on which the Executive
11 agency first began to develop or consider
12 the agency regulatory action;

13 “(ii) the status of the agency regu-
14 latory action;

15 “(iii) an estimate of the date of upon
16 which the agency regulatory action will be
17 final and in effect; and

18 “(iv) a brief description of the agency
19 regulatory action.

20 “(B) PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.—For each
21 pending agency regulatory action, a list of each
22 public communication about the pending agency
23 regulatory action issued by the Executive agen-
24 cy and with regard to each such communica-
25 tion—

- 1 “(i) the date of the communication;
2 “(ii) the intended audience of the
3 communication;
4 “(iii) the method of communication;
5 and
6 “(iv) a copy of the original commu-
7 nication.

8 “(2) PERIOD.—The head of each Executive
9 agency shall publish the information required under
10 paragraph (1)(A) not later than 24 hours after a
11 public communication relating to a pending agency
12 regulatory action is issued and shall maintain the
13 public availability of such information not less than
14 5 years after the date on which the pending agency
15 regulatory action is finalized.

16 “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICA-
17 TIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any public communication
19 issued by an Executive agency that refers to a pend-
20 ing agency regulatory action—

21 “(A) shall specify whether the Executive
22 agency is considering alternatives;

23 “(B) shall specify whether the Executive
24 agency is accepting or will be accepting com-
25 ments; and

1 “(C) shall expressly disclose that the Exec-
2 utive agency is the source of the information to
3 the intended recipients.

4 “(2) RESTRICTION.—Any public communication
5 issued by an Executive agency that refers to a pend-
6 ing agency regulatory action, other than an impar-
7 tial communication that requests comment on or
8 provides information regarding the pending agency
9 regulatory action, may not—

10 “(A) directly advocate, in support of or
11 against the pending agency regulatory action,
12 for the submission of information to form part
13 of the record of review for the pending agency
14 regulatory action;

15 “(B) appeal to the public, or solicit a third
16 party, to undertake advocacy in support of or
17 against the pending agency regulatory action;
18 or

19 “(C) be directly or indirectly for publicity
20 or propaganda purposes within the United
21 States unless otherwise authorized by law.

22 “(d) REPORTING.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 15
24 of each year, the head of an Executive agency that
25 communicated about a pending agency regulatory

1 action during the previous fiscal year shall submit to
2 each committee of Congress with jurisdiction over
3 the activities of the Executive agency a report indi-
4 cating—

5 “(A) the number pending agency regu-
6 latory actions the Executive agency issued pub-
7 lic communications about during that fiscal
8 year;

9 “(B) the average number of public commu-
10 nications issued by the Executive agency for
11 each pending agency regulatory action during
12 that fiscal year;

13 “(C) the 5 pending agency regulatory ac-
14 tions with the highest number of public commu-
15 nications issued by the Executive agency in that
16 fiscal year; and

17 “(D) a copy of each public communication
18 for the pending agency regulatory actions iden-
19 tified in subparagraph (C).

20 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The head of
21 an Executive agency that is required to submit a re-
22 port under paragraph (1) shall make the report pub-
23 licly available in a searchable format in a prominent
24 location on the website of the Executive agency.”.

- 1 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
2 The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 5, United States
3 Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-
4 tion 306 the following new item:

“307. Information regarding pending agency regulatory action.”.

