

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3172

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, to require registration statements filed under that Act to be filed in a structured data format to enable the statements to be digitized for purposes of the publicly available electronic database maintained under that Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, to require registration statements filed under that Act to be filed in a structured data format to enable the statements to be digitized for purposes of the publicly available electronic database maintained under that Act, 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 “Foreign Agents Reg-
5 istration Modernization Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO FARA REGISTRA-**
2 **TION STATEMENTS.**

3 (a) **FORMAT.**—

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2(g) of the Foreign
5 Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22
6 U.S.C. 612(g)), is amended—

7 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
8 “ELECTRONIC” and inserting “FORMAT FOR”;
9 and

10 (B) by striking “shall be filed” and all that
11 follows through the period at the end and in-
12 serting the following: “shall be filed in—

13 “(1) an electronic, structured data format
14 under which the statement or supplement shall be
15 published in a publicly available, machine-
16 processable digital format for purposes of the Na-
17 tional Foreign Agents Database under section
18 6(d)(1); and

19 “(2) such other formats as the Attorney Gen-
20 eral may require.”.

21 (2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made
22 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to state-
23 ments and supplements filed under section 2 of the
24 Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amend-
25 ed (22 U.S.C. 612), on or after the date that is 180
26 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (b) ELECTRONIC DATABASE.—

2 (1) SEARCHABILITY AND SORTABILITY; DES-
3 IGNATION.—Section 6(d) of the Foreign Agents Reg-
4 istration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C.
5 616(d)), is amended—

6 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
7 “UPDATES” and inserting “SUPPLEMENTS”;
8 and

9 (B) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
11 graph (A), by striking “to the extent tech-
12 nically practicable, an electronic database
13 that” and inserting “an electronic data-
14 base, to be known as the ‘National Foreign
15 Agents Database’, that”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
17 “includes the information contained in reg-
18 istration statements and updates” and in-
19 serting “includes, in a digitized format
20 that achieves compliance with the applica-
21 ble digital accessibility standards described
22 in section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of
23 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), the information
24 contained in registration statements and
25 supplements”.

1 (2) POSTING ON RECEIPT.—Section 6(d)(2) of
2 the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as
3 amended (22 U.S.C. 616(d)(2)), is amended—

4 (A) by striking “update” each place it ap-
5 pears and inserting “supplement”; and

6 (B) by striking “as soon as technically
7 practicable” and inserting “immediately”.

8 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
9 by this subsection shall take effect on the date that
10 is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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