

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9643

To amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2026

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, 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 “Comment Integrity
5 and Management Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to help Federal agencies
8 manage mass and computer-generated comments in the

1 Federal regulatory process. This should in no way be un-
2 derstood to discourage mass comments, which are a vital
3 part of the regulatory process.

4 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING INTEGRITY AND MANAGEMENT OF**
5 **MASS COMMENTS AND COMPUTER-GEN-**
6 **ERATED COMMENTS IN THE REGULATORY**
7 **REVIEW PROCESS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 206 of the E-Government
9 Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note)
10 is amended by—

11 (1) redesignating subsection (e) as subsection
12 (f); and

13 (2) inserting after subsection (d) the following:

14 “(e) INFORMATION INTEGRITY.—

15 “(1) VERIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SUBMIS-
16 SIONS.—With respect to each comment accepted by
17 electronic means under subsection (c), in accordance
18 with the guidance established by Director in para-
19 graph (3), the head of an agency shall verify, to the
20 greatest extent possible, at the time the comment is
21 submitted, whether the comment has been submitted
22 by a human being.

23 “(2) IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
24 MASS COMMENTS.—

1 “(A) IDENTIFICATION OF MASS COM-
2 MENTS.—With respect to each comment accept-
3 ed by electronic means under subsection (c) by
4 the head of an agency, the head of the agency
5 shall—

6 “(i) to the extent practicable, reason-
7 ably determine whether such comment is a
8 mass comment; and

9 “(ii) in the case that the agency has
10 made a reasonable determination that the
11 comment is a mass comment, indicate on
12 any publicly available copy of the comment,
13 or comment variations, (through a label or
14 indicator, and in a machine and human
15 readable format), that the comment is part
16 of a mass comment submission; and

17 “(B) HANDLING OF MASS COMMENTS.—
18 Notwithstanding subsection (d)(2)(A), instead
19 of making available through the electronic dock-
20 et of the agency each comment identified as a
21 mass comment under paragraph (2), the head
22 of an agency may—

23 “(i) make available through such
24 docket only a single representative sample
25 of each such mass comment; or

1 “(ii) in the case where mass com-
2 ments take the form of variations on cer-
3 tain standardized but not identical lan-
4 guage the agency make available through
5 such docket a single copy of one of the
6 variations of the mass comment.

7 “(C) NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS.—In the
8 case in which the head of an agency makes
9 available through such docket a single rep-
10 resentative sample or a single copy of one of the
11 variations of a mass comment under subpara-
12 graph (B), the head of the agency shall indicate
13 (through a label or indicator, and in a machine
14 and human readable format), on the sample or
15 copy made available, the number of submissions
16 that were determined to be identical, or sub-
17 stantively identical to the sample or copy made
18 available on such docket.

19 “(3) OMB GUIDANCE.—

20 “(A) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 240 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this sub-
22 section, the Director, in consultation with the
23 Administrator of General Services, shall issue
24 guidance to the heads of each agency on the im-

1 plementation of the requirements of this sub-
2 section.

3 “(B) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The
4 guidance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)
5 shall include recommendations for agencies on
6 how to best manage comments accepted by elec-
7 tronic means, including recommendations on
8 how to do the following:

9 “(i) Use technology tools and proce-
10 dures that verify, to the greatest extent
11 possible, whether a comment is being sub-
12 mitted by a human being.

13 “(ii) Identify mass comments, includ-
14 ing how to leverage software tools to iden-
15 tify whether a comment is a mass com-
16 ment.

17 “(iii) Indicate (through a label or in-
18 dicator, and in a machine- and human-
19 readable format), that a comment is a
20 mass comment.

21 “(iv) Use new technology to offer new
22 opportunities for public participation in the
23 rulemaking process.

24 “(C) UPDATES.—The Director, in con-
25 sultation with the Administrator of General

1 Services, may update the guidance issued pur-
2 suant to subparagraph (A), as determined nec-
3 essary by the Director.

4 “(4) POLICIES CONCERNING POSTING AND CON-
5 sideration of COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS
6 AND MASS COMMENTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of the enactment of this sub-
9 section, the head of each agency shall establish
10 a policy with respect to the posting and consid-
11 eration of computer-generated comments and
12 mass-comments during the rulemaking process
13 of the agency that is consistent with—

14 “(i) the requirements of paragraph
15 (2); and

16 “(ii) the guidance issued under para-
17 graph (3).

18 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Not later
19 than 60 days after the date on which the head
20 of an agency establishes a policy pursuant to
21 subparagraph (A), the head of the agency shall,
22 to the extent practicable, post the policy on the
23 website through which an agency makes com-
24 ments available pursuant to subsection
25 (d)(2)(A).

1 “(C) UPDATE TO POLICY.—The policy es-
2 tablished pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

3 “(i) shall be updated as necessary to
4 make such guidance consistent with any
5 updates to the guidance issued under para-
6 graph (3); and

7 “(ii) may be updated by the head of
8 the agency, in consultation with the Direc-
9 tor, as the head of the agency determines
10 appropriate.

11 “(5) EXCEPTION TO TIME LIMITATION FOR IM-
12 PLEMENTATION.—The requirement described under
13 subsection (f) shall not apply to this subsection.

14 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15 “(A) COMMENT.—The term ‘comment’
16 means a submission under section 553(c) of
17 title 5, United States Code.

18 “(B) COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENT.—
19 The term ‘computer-generated comment’ means
20 a comment the substance of which is primarily
21 generated by computer software, including
22 through the use of artificial intelligence, rather
23 than by a human being.

24 “(C) MASS COMMENT.—The term ‘mass
25 comment’ means a comment submitted as part

1 of an organized submission of a large volume of
2 identical, or substantively identical, comments
3 submitted by different signatories or entities.”.

4 (b) UPDATE TO WEBSITES, INFORMATION SYSTEMS
5 OF AGENCIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head
8 of each agency subject to the requirements of section
9 206(e) of the E-Government Act, as added by sub-
10 section (a), shall update any website of the agency,
11 and any information system of the agency, as nec-
12 essary to ensure compliance with the requirements
13 of such section.

14 (2) REGULATIONS.GOV.—The Administrator of
15 General Services, acting through the eRulemaking
16 Program Management Office, shall update Regula-
17 tions.gov as necessary to ensure compliance with the
18 requirements of section 206(e) of the E-Government
19 Act, as added by subsection (a).

20 (3) ERULEMAKING SYSTEM.—The Adminis-
21 trator of General Services shall update the shared
22 eRulemaking system on behalf of participating agen-
23 cies.

24 (c) GAO REPORT ON COMPUTER-GENERATED COM-
25 MENTS.—

1 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
3 General of the United States shall submit to the
4 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of
5 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
6 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
7 Senate a report on the identification of computer-
8 generated comments under section 206(e) of the E-
9 Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347; 44
10 U.S.C. 3501 note), that includes the following:

11 (A) Recommendations on how to identify if
12 a submission under that section is a computer-
13 generated comment.

14 (B) Any effect that computer-generated
15 comments have on the rulemaking process.

16 (C) The extent to which the public uses
17 computer-generated comments to participate in
18 the rulemaking process at the time the report
19 is submitted.

20 (D) How prevalent computer-generated
21 comments are at the time the report is sub-
22 mitted.

23 (E) How prevalent the Comptroller Gen-
24 eral anticipates computer-generated comments

1 will be 5 years after the date on which the re-
2 port is submitted.

3 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act,
4 or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed
5 as affecting the consideration of a mass comment by the
6 head of an agency during the rulemaking process.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) COMMENT.—The term “comment” means a
9 submission under section 553(c) of title 5, United
10 States Code.

11 (2) COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS.—The
12 term “computer-generated comment” means a com-
13 ment the substance of which is primarily generated
14 by computer software, including through the use of
15 artificial intelligence, rather than by a human being.

16 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
17 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
18 et.

19 (4) MASS COMMENT.—The term “mass com-
20 ment” means a comment submitted as part of an or-
21 ganized submission of a large volume of identical, or
22 substantively identical, comments submitted by dif-
23 ferent signatories or entities.

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