

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 4756**

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**AN ACT**

To ensure that the United States is prepared to  
meet the Year 2000 computer problem.

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Year 2000 computer problem.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Year 2000 Prepared-  
3 ness Act of 1998”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5       For purposes of this Act—

6           (1) the term “end-to-end testing” means testing  
7 data exchange software with respect to—

8               (A) the initiation of the exchange by send-  
9 ing computers;

10               (B) transmission through intermediate  
11 communications software and hardware; and

12               (C) receipt and acceptance by receiving  
13 computers;

14           (2) the term “small and medium-sized busi-  
15 nesses” means businesses with less than 500 em-  
16 ployees;

17           (3) the term “Year 2000 compliant” means,  
18 with respect to information technology, that the in-  
19 formation technology accurately processes (including  
20 calculating, comparing, and sequencing) date and  
21 time data from, into, and between the 20th and 21st  
22 centuries and the years 1999 and 2000, and leap  
23 year calculations, to the extent that other informa-  
24 tion technology properly exchanges date and time  
25 data with it;

1           (4) the term “Year 2000 computer problem”  
2       means, with respect to information technology, any  
3       problem which prevents such technology from accu-  
4       rately processing, calculating, comparing, or se-  
5       quencing date or time data—

6           (A) from, into, or between—

7                   (i) the 20th and 21st centuries; or

8                   (ii) the years 1999 and 2000;

9           (B) with regard to leap year calculations;

10       or

11           (C) with regard to such other dates as the  
12       Year 2000 Conversion Council may identify and  
13       designate; and

14       (5) the term “Year 2000 Conversion Council”  
15       means the President’s Council on Year 2000 Conver-  
16       sion established under section 2 of Executive Order  
17       No. 13073, issued on February 4, 1998;

18 **SEC. 3. CRITICAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES.**

19       The President shall provide for the acceleration of the  
20       development of business continuity plans by Federal agen-  
21       cies necessary to ensure the uninterrupted delivery by  
22       those agencies of critical mission-related services.

23 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

24       It is the sense of the Congress that—

1           (1) the President should take a high profile na-  
2           tional leadership position to aggressively promote  
3           Year 2000 date change awareness for information  
4           technology systems and sensitive infrastructure ap-  
5           plications;

6           (2) the President should authorize the Chair of  
7           the Year 2000 Conversion Council to take a leader-  
8           ship role in resolving Year 2000 issues in any criti-  
9           cal Federal civilian agency system that is in jeop-  
10          ardy because of ineffective management of not meet-  
11          ing the January 1, 2000, deadline with respect to  
12          the Year 2000 computer problem;

13          (3) consistent with the spirit of the Government  
14          Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Chair of  
15          the Year 2000 Conversion Council, in consultation  
16          with the President's Council on Infrastructure As-  
17          surance, officers of the Federal Government and of  
18          State and local governments, and representatives of  
19          the private sector, should work toward a national  
20          strategy to assure that the critical infrastructures  
21          and key sectors of the economy will be prepared for  
22          the Year 2000 date change, with such strategy in-  
23          cluding, for each sector, goals appropriate to each;

24          (4) the Chair of the Year 2000 Conversion  
25          Council is making a significant contribution to Year

1       2000 computer problem awareness by scheduling a  
2       National Y2K Action Week for October 19 through  
3       23, 1998;

4               (5) the Small Business Administration, the De-  
5       partment of Commerce, the Department of Agri-  
6       culture, and other appropriate Federal agencies  
7       should undertake maximum efforts to assist Amer-  
8       ican family businesses and farmers in assessing their  
9       exposure to the Year 2000 computer problem, un-  
10      dertaking the necessary remedial steps, and formu-  
11      lating contingency plans; and

12              (6) State and local governments, as well as pri-  
13      vate sector industry groups and companies, should  
14      find ways to participate in this effort to prepare the  
15      American economy for the year 2000.

16   **SEC. 5. AGENCY REPORTS.**

17       All Federal agency reports to the Office of Manage-  
18      ment and Budget relating to the Year 2000 computer  
19      problem shall be concurrently transmitted to the Congress,  
20      including all Federal agency monthly submissions to the  
21      Office of Management and Budget.

22   **SEC. 6. GUIDELINES.**

23       The Chair of the Year 2000 Conversion Council is  
24      encouraged to develop, in consultation with industry,  
25      guidelines of best practices and standards for remediation

1 and validation with respect to the Year 2000 computer  
2 problem to provide better direction for government and  
3 private sector efforts.

4 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF YEAR 2000 COMPUTER**  
5 **PROBLEM.**

6 The Chair of the Year 2000 Conversion Council shall  
7 submit to the Congress any national assessment of the  
8 Year 2000 computer problem, conducted through or in  
9 conjunction with the Year 2000 Conversion Council, cover-  
10 ing all critical national infrastructures and key sectors of  
11 the economy, including banking and finance, energy, tele-  
12 communications, transportation, and vital human services  
13 which protect the public health and safety, the water sup-  
14 ply, housing and public buildings, and the environment.

15 **SEC. 8. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS.**

16 To ensure that all computer operations and process-  
17 ing can be provided without interruption by Federal agen-  
18 cies after December 31, 1999, the head of each Federal  
19 agency shall—

20 (1) take actions necessary to ensure that all  
21 systems and hardware administered by the agency  
22 are Year 2000 compliant, to the extent necessary to  
23 ensure that no significant disruption of the oper-  
24 ations of the agency or of the agency's data ex-  
25 change partners occurs, including—

1 (A) establishing, before March 1, 1999,  
2 schedules for testing and implementing new  
3 data exchange formats for completing all data  
4 exchange corrections, which may include na-  
5 tional test days for end-to-end testing of critical  
6 processes and associated data exchanges affect-  
7 ing Federal, State, and local governments;

8 (B) notifying data exchange partners of  
9 the implications to the agency and the exchange  
10 partners if they do not make appropriate date  
11 conversion corrections in time to meet the Fed-  
12 eral schedule for implementing and testing Year  
13 2000 compliant data exchange processes;

14 (C) giving priority to installing filters nec-  
15 essary to prevent the corruption of mission-crit-  
16 ical systems from data exchanges with non-  
17 compliant systems; and

18 (D) developing and implementing, as part  
19 of the agency's continuity and contingency plan-  
20 ning efforts, specific provisions for data ex-  
21 changes that may fail, including strategies to  
22 mitigate operational disruptions if data ex-  
23 change partners do not make timely date con-  
24 version corrections;



1           (2) beginning not later than 30 days after the  
2       date of the enactment of this Act, convene meetings  
3       at least quarterly with representatives of the agen-  
4       cy's data exchange partners to assess implementa-  
5       tion progress; and

6           (3) after each meeting convened pursuant to  
7       paragraph (2), transmit to the Congress a report  
8       summarizing—

9                 (A) the results of that meeting; and

10                (B) the status of the agency's completion  
11       of key data exchange corrections, including the  
12       extent of data exchange inventoried, an assess-  
13       ment of data exchange formats agreed to with  
14       data exchange partners, testing and implemen-  
15       tation schedules, and testing and implementa-  
16       tion completed.

17 **SEC. 9. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-**  
18 **NESSES.**

19       To ensure that the Nation's small and medium-sized  
20       businesses are prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer  
21       problem challenge, the National Institute of Standards  
22       and Technology, in conjunction with the Small Business  
23       Administration, shall develop a Year 2000 compliance out-  
24       reach program to assist small and medium-sized busi-  
25       nesses. Such program shall include—

1           (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-  
2           ment checklist;

3           (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer  
4           problem and an identification of best practices for  
5           resolving the problem;

6           (3) a list of Federal Government Year 2000 in-  
7           formation resources; and

8           (4) a list of Year 2000 compliant products pro-  
9           vided by the General Services Administration.

10 **SEC. 10. CONSUMER AWARENESS.**

11       To ensure that the Nation's consumers are aware of  
12 and prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer problem  
13 challenge, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Tech-  
14 nology, in consultation with the Consumer Product Safety  
15 Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, shall de-  
16 velop a Year 2000 consumer awareness program to assist  
17 the public in becoming aware of the implications of the  
18 Year 2000 computer problem. Such program shall in-  
19 clude—

20           (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-  
21           ment checklist;

22           (2) a list of Federal Government Year 2000  
23           computer problem information resources;

24           (3) a list of Year 2000 compliant products pro-  
25           vided by the General Services Administration;

1           (4) a series of public awareness announcements  
2           or seminars on the impact of the Year 2000 com-  
3           puter problem on consumer products and services;  
4           and

5           (5) a series of public awareness announcements  
6           or seminars on the potential effect that the Year  
7           2000 computer problem could have on the provision  
8           of services by the Federal Government to the public,  
9           and the progress made in resolving the problem by  
10          the Federal agencies providing those services.

        Passed the House of Representatives October 13,  
1998.

Attest:

*Clerk.*