

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1502

To minimize the disruption of Government and private sector operations
caused by the Year 2000 computer problem.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1999

Mr. BARCIA (for himself, Mr. BROWN of California, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEINER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. GORDON, Mr. WU, and Mr. DOYLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To minimize the disruption of Government and private sector
operations caused by the 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Year 2000 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) Electronic data exchanges are used exten-
8 sively to transfer information between computer sys-
9 tems. Federal agencies now depend on electronic

1 data exchanges to execute programs and facilitate
2 commerce. Consequently, as computer systems are
3 converted to process Year 2000 dates, the associated
4 data exchanges must also be made Year 2000 com-
5 pliant.

6 (2) The testing and implementation of new data
7 exchanges must be closely coordinated with exchange
8 partners to be completed effectively. If Year 2000
9 data exchanges do not function properly, data will
10 not be exchanged between systems, or invalid data
11 could cause receiving computer systems to malfunc-
12 tion or produce inaccurate computations.

13 (3) The United States 381,000 small manufac-
14 turers contribute more than half of the country's
15 total value in manufacturing. However, as of 1998,
16 75 percent of all companies with fewer than 2,000
17 employees had not yet started Year 2000 remedi-
18 ation projects.

19 (4) As small manufacturers are an integral part
20 of the business supply chain, it is imperative that
21 their computer systems are Year 2000 compliant to
22 prevent disruption to the country's manufacturing
23 base.

24 (5) The economic well being of the United
25 States is interdependent with the economic well

1 being of other nations of the world. There is very lit-
2 tle information on the level of Year 2000 prepared-
3 ness by other countries and the potential impact on
4 the United States economy. Therefore, to prevent
5 economic disruption in the United States, the Year
6 2000 computer problem must be addressed on a
7 global scale.

8 (6) Currently, there is little information to
9 guide consumers in the purchase of Year 2000 com-
10 pliant consumer goods or to ensure that their exist-
11 ing goods are Year 2000 complaint.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 For purposes of this Act—

14 (1) the term “data exchange testing” means
15 testing data exchange software with respect to—

16 (A) the initiation of the exchange by send-
17 ing computers;

18 (B) transmission through intermediate
19 communications software and hardware; and

20 (C) receipt and acceptance by receiving
21 computers;

22 (2) the term “small and medium-sized busi-
23 nesses” means businesses with less than 500 em-
24 ployees;

1 (3) the term “Year 2000 compliant” means,
2 with respect to information technology, that the in-
3 formation technology accurately processes (including
4 calculating, comparing, and sequencing) date and
5 time data from, into, and between the 20th and 21st
6 centuries and the years 1999 and 2000, and leap
7 year calculations, to the extent that other informa-
8 tion technology properly exchanges date and time
9 data with it; and

10 (4) the term “Year 2000 computer problem”
11 means the potential problems that might be encoun-
12 tered in any level of computer hardware and soft-
13 ware from microcode to application programs, files,
14 and databases that need to correctly interpret year
15 date data represented in 2-digit-year format.

16 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS.**

17 To ensure that all computer operations and proc-
18 essing can be provided without interruption by Federal
19 agencies after December 31, 1999, the head of each Fed-
20 eral agency shall—

21 (1) take actions necessary to ensure that all
22 systems and hardware administered by the agency
23 are Year 2000 compliant, to the extent necessary to
24 ensure that no significant disruption of the oper-

1 ations of the agency or of the agency's data ex-
2 change partners occurs, including—

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

10 (B) notifying data exchange partners of
11 the implications to the agency and the exchange
12 partners if they do not make appropriate date
13 conversion corrections in time to meet the Fed-
14 eral schedule for implementing and testing Year
15 2000 compliant data exchange processes;

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

20 (D) developing and implementing, as part
21 of the agency's continuity and contingency plan-
22 ning efforts, specific provisions for data ex-
23 changes that may fail, including strategies to
24 mitigate operational disruptions if data ex-

1 change partners do not make timely date con-
2 version corrections;

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

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

11 (A) the results of that meeting; and

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

19 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-**
20 **NESSES.**

21 To ensure that the Nation's small and medium-
22 sized businesses are prepared to meet the Year 2000
23 computer problem challenge, the National Institute
24 of Standards and Technology, in conjunction with
25 the Small Business Administration, shall develop a

1 Year 2000 compliance outreach program to assist
2 small and medium-sized businesses. Such program
3 shall include—

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

6 (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer
7 problem and an identification of best practices for
8 resolving the problem;

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

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

13 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT.**

14 Within 3 months after the date of the enactment of
15 this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Tech-
16 nology, in conjunction with other relevant Federal agen-
17 cies, shall transmit to the Congress a report assessing the
18 international implications of the Year 2000 computer
19 problem. Such report shall include—

20 (1) an assessment of Year 2000 compliance by
21 the United States major trading partners;

22 (2) a description of efforts by the United States
23 to share best practices with other countries;

24 (3) the economic implications on world trade
25 and the United States economy of the Year 2000

1 computer problem, including an identification of im-
2 pacted United States industrial sectors and Federal
3 agencies; and

4 (4) a summary of participation by Federal
5 agencies in international for addressing the Year
6 2000 computer problem.

7 **SEC. 7. CONSUMER AWARENESS.**

8 To ensure that the Nation's consumers are aware of
9 and prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer problem
10 challenge, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Tech-
11 nology shall develop a Year 2000 consumer awareness pro-
12 gram to assist the public in becoming aware of the impli-
13 cations of the Year 2000 computer problem. Such pro-
14 gram shall include—

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

17 (2) a list of Federal Government Year 2000
18 computer problem information resources;

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

21 (4) a series of public awareness announcements
22 or seminars on the impact of the Year 2000 com-
23 puter problem on consumer products and services;
24 and

1 (5) a series of public awareness announcements
2 or seminars on the potential effect that the Year
3 2000 computer problem could have on the provision
4 of services by the Federal Government to the public,
5 and the progress made in resolving the problem by
6 the Federal agencies providing those services.

7 **SEC. 8. ASSISTANCE TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

8 To ensure that the Nation's health care providers are
9 prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer problem chal-
10 lenge, the Food and Drug Administration, in consultation
11 and cooperation with the Veterans' Administration, shall
12 develop a Year 2000 compliance outreach program to as-
13 sist health care providers. Such program shall include—

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

16 (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer
17 problem and identification of best practices for re-
18 solving the problem;

19 (3) a list of Federal Government Year 2000
20 computer problem information resources;

21 (4) a list of Year 2000 compliant biomedical de-
22 vices and other equipment used by health care pro-
23 viders that could lead to life-threatening situations
24 due to a failure related to Year 2000 computer prob-
25 lems, including an indication of whether the Year

1 2000 compliance of such devices or equipment has
2 been independently verified; and

3 (5) aggressive dissemination of the list de-
4 scribed in paragraph (4).

5 **SEC. 9. ASSISTANCE FOR THE WATER UTILITY SECTOR.**

6 To ensure that the Nation's drinking water suppliers
7 and wastewater treatment processors are prepared to meet
8 the Year 2000 computer problem challenge, the Environ-
9 mental Protection Agency shall develop a Year 2000 com-
10 pliance outreach program to assist drinking water sup-
11 pliers and wastewater treatment processors. Such program
12 shall include—

13 (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-
14 ment checklist specifically designed for the needs of
15 the water utility sector;

16 (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer
17 problem and identification of best practices for re-
18 solving the problem;

19 (3) a list of Federal Government Year 2000
20 computer problem information resources; and

21 (4) a list of Year 2000 compliant products and
22 equipment used in key elements of the water utility
23 sector, including an indication of whether the Year

- 1 2000 compliance of such products or equipment has
- 2 been independently verified.

