

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3630

To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service Web site.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service Web site.

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 “Congressional Re-
5 search Accessibility Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CRS INFORMATION.**

7 (a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Con-
9 gressional Research Service shall make available

1 through a centralized, searchable, electronic data-
2 base, for purposes of access and retrieval by the
3 public as described in section 3, all information de-
4 scribed in paragraph (2) that is available through
5 the Congressional Research Service Web site.

6 (2) INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—

7 The information to be made available under para-
8 graph (1) is as follows:

9 (A) Congressional Research Service Issue
10 Briefs.

11 (B) Congressional Research Service Re-
12 ports that are available to Members of Congress
13 through the Congressional Research Service
14 website.

15 (C) Congressional Research Service Au-
16 thorization of Appropriations Products and Ap-
17 propriations Products.

18 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

19 (1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection

20 (a) does not apply to—

21 (A) any information that is confidential, as
22 determined by—

23 (i) the Director, or

1 (ii) the head of a Federal department
2 or agency that provided the information to
3 the Congressional Research Service; or

4 (B) any document that is the product of
5 an individual, office, or committee research re-
6 quest.

7 (2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying
8 out this section, the Director of the Congressional
9 Research Service may—

10 (A) remove from the information required
11 to be made available under subsection (a) the
12 name and phone number of, and any other in-
13 formation regarding, an employee of the Con-
14 gressional Research Service;

15 (B) remove from the information required
16 to be made available under subsection (a) any
17 material for which the Director determines that
18 making it available under subsection (a) may
19 infringe the copyright of a work protected
20 under title 17, United States Code; and

21 (C) make any changes in the information
22 required to be made available under subsection
23 (a) that the Director determines necessary to
24 ensure that the information is accurate and
25 current.

1 (c) TIME.—The Director of the Congressional Re-
2 search Service shall make available all information re-
3 quired under this section no earlier than 30 days and no
4 later than 40 days after the date on which the information
5 is first made available to Members of Congress through
6 the Congressional Research Service Web site.

7 (d) MANNER.—The Director of the Congressional Re-
8 search Service shall make information required to be made
9 available under this section in a manner that—

10 (1) is practical and reasonable; and

11 (2) does not permit the submission of comments
12 from the public.

13 **SEC. 3. METHOD OF ACCESS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Public access to information made
15 available under this Act shall be provided through the
16 websites maintained by Members and committees of the
17 House of Representatives. The Director of the Congres-
18 sional Research Service and the Chief Administrative Offi-
19 cer of the House of Representatives shall work together
20 to carry out this subsection.

21 (b) EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRS REPORTS
22 ONLINE.—The Director of the Congressional Research
23 Service is responsible for maintaining and updating the
24 information made available on the Internet under section

1 2, and shall have sole discretion to edit that information
2 under this Act.

3 (c) FURTHER APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
4 standing any other provision of law to the contrary, the
5 Director of the Congressional Research Service shall make
6 the information required to be made available under sec-
7 tion 2 without the prior approval of the Committee on
8 Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Committee
9 on House Administration of the House of Representatives,
10 or the Joint Committee on Printing.

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