

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3479

To eliminate duplicative Government programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

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

A BILL

To eliminate duplicative Government programs, 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 “Scrapping
5 Unsustainable Redundant Programs Leaves Us Solvent
6 Act of 2009” or the “SURPLUS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are to—

9 (1) reduce America’s debt, now more than
10 \$11,000,000,000,000 dollars;

1 (2) eliminate duplicative Government programs,
2 streamlining the way Government operates;

3 (3) secure, for effective programs, the necessary
4 resources; and

5 (4) reduce the overall size of the Federal Gov-
6 ernment.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Com-
11 merce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of
12 Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of
13 Health and Human Services, the Secretary of
14 Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and
15 Urban Development, the Secretary of the Interior,
16 the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State, the
17 Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the
18 Treasury, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the
19 Attorney General, and the Administrator of the En-
20 vironmental Protection Agency.

21 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
22 any program or initiative housed within a depart-
23 ment or agency headed by a Secretary (as defined
24 in paragraph (1)).

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY OF EXISTING FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) STUDY.—Each Secretary shall conduct a study
3 to determine if any Federal program within the depart-
4 ment or agency concerned is duplicative of one or more
5 other Federal programs under the authority of the depart-
6 ment or agency as of the date of the enactment of this
7 Act.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary shall
10 submit to Congress and make available to the public a re-
11 port that contains the results of the study required under
12 subsection (a).

13 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE PROGRAMS.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENT TO TERMINATE DUPLICATIVE
15 PROGRAMS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), if a
16 Secretary determines under section 4(a) that any program
17 is duplicative of one or more other Federal programs with-
18 in the department or agency concerned, the Secretary
19 shall, to the maximum extent appropriate, terminate the
20 duplicative Federal program, or consolidate the program
21 with other programs performing similar functions, not
22 later than 180 days after the date of the submission of
23 the report under section 4(b).

24 (b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to
25 any program that is required or authorized by statute.

1 (c) DUPLICATIVE PROGRAM.—For purposes of this
2 section, a program shall be considered duplicative of an-
3 other program if—

4 (1) in the case of a grant program, the Sec-
5 retary concerned determines that the purpose of the
6 program is to benefit a specific group of persons
7 that is identical to or substantially similar to a
8 group of persons that is eligible for another grant
9 program; and

10 (2) in the case of any other program, the Sec-
11 retary concerned determines that the program is
12 performing the same essential function as another
13 program.

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