

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5717

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require annual reports from agencies detailing the cost of multilingual services, to end speculation about the cost of multilingual services provided by the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require annual reports from agencies detailing the cost of multilingual services, to end speculation about the cost of multilingual services provided by the Federal Government, 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 “Report the Costs Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON COST OF MULTILINGUAL SERVICES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 31, United
7 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in section 902(a)(6)—

2 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
3 paragraph (D);

4 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
5 subparagraph (F); and

6 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
7 the following:

8 “(E) a report detailing the annual cost of
9 multilingual services, described by section 904,
10 in accordance with guidance issued under sec-
11 tion 3517; and”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 **“§ 904. Cost of multilingual services defined.**

14 “In this chapter, the term ‘cost of multilingual serv-
15 ices’ means the costs to the agency associated with—

16 “(1) hiring interpreters;

17 “(2) helping agency employees or contractors
18 learn a language other than English;

19 “(3) preparing or producing agency materials in
20 a language other than English;

21 “(4) compensating an employee or a contractor
22 for the ability of the employee or contractor to speak
23 a language other than English; and

1 “(5) any other services provided or performed
 2 by an agency in a language other than English that
 3 incur additional cost to the agency.”.

4 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
 5 section apply with respect to any reports prepared under
 6 section 902(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, for a
 7 fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2016.

8 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 9 tions at the beginning of chapter 9 of title 31, United
 10 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
 11 ing to section 903 the following:

“904. Cost of multilingual services.”.

12 **SEC. 3. MULTILINGUAL SERVICES EXPENSES REPORT.**

13 (a) MULTILINGUAL SERVICES EXPENSES REPORT.—
 14 Subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 31, United States
 15 Code is amended—

16 (1) in section 3512(a)(2)—

17 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 18 paragraph (E);

19 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as
 20 subparagraph (G); and

21 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
 22 the following:

23 “(F) a Multilingual Services Expense Re-
 24 port that includes—

1 “(i) a summary and analysis of the
 2 cost of multilingual services (as described
 3 in section 904) detailed in reports pre-
 4 pared under section 902(a)(6)(E);

5 “(ii) a description of any changes
 6 needed to report accurately the cost of
 7 multilingual services for each agency; and

8 “(iii) any other information the Direc-
 9 tor considers appropriate to fully inform
 10 the Congress of the costs of all multi-
 11 lingual services provided by the Federal
 12 Government; and”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 **“§ 3517. Multilingual services guidelines.**

15 “The Director of the Office of Management and
 16 Budget shall issue guidance that each agency Chief Finan-
 17 cial Officer shall follow in compiling a report required
 18 under section 902(a)(6)(E) on the cost of multilingual
 19 services.”.

20 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
 21 section apply to any reports prepared under title 3512(a)
 22 of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year beginning
 23 on or after October 1, 2016.

24 (c) DEADLINE FOR GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180
 25 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Direc-

1 tor of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue
2 guidance under section 3517 of title 31, United States
3 Code, as added by subsection (a).

4 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
5 tions at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 31, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
7 ing to section 3516 the following:

“3517. Multilingual Services Accounting Guidelines.”.

