

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3577

To amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the printing and distribution of paper copies of Congressional documents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the printing and distribution of paper copies of Congressional documents.

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 “Unnecessary Govern-
5 ment Printing Reform Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION**
2 **OF PAPER COPIES OF CONGRESSIONAL DOC-**
3 **UMENTS.**

4 (a) PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS
5 BY DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OF-
6 FICE.—

7 (1) RESTRICTIONS.—Chapter 7 of title 44,
8 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
9 end the following new section:

10 **“§ 742. Restrictions on printing and distribution of**
11 **paper copies**

12 “(a) MANDATORY USE OF ELECTRONIC FORMAT FOR
13 DISTRIBUTION OF CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS.—Not-
14 withstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Di-
15 rector of the Government Publishing Office shall make any
16 document of the House of Representatives or Senate
17 which is subject to any of the provisions of this chapter
18 available only in an electronic format which is accessible
19 through the Internet, and may not print or distribute a
20 printed copy of the document except as provided in sub-
21 section (b).

22 “(b) PERMITTING PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF
23 PRINTED COPIES UPON REQUEST.—Notwithstanding
24 subsection (a), at the request of any person to whom the
25 Director of the Government Publishing Office would have
26 been required to provide a printed copy of a document

1 under this chapter had subsection (a) not been in effect,
 2 the Director may print and distribute a copy of a docu-
 3 ment or report for the use of that person, except that—

4 “(1) the number of printed copies the Director
 5 may provide to the person may not exceed the num-
 6 ber of printed copies the Director would have pro-
 7 vided to the person had subsection (a) not been in
 8 effect; and

9 “(2) the Director may print and distribute cop-
 10 ies to the person only upon payment by the person
 11 of the costs of printing and distributing the copies,
 12 except that this paragraph shall not apply to an of-
 13 fice of the House of Representatives or Senate (in-
 14 cluding the office of a Member of Congress).”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 16 tions of chapter 7 of such title is amended by adding
 17 at the end following new item:

“742. Restrictions on printing and distribution of paper copies.”.

18 (b) PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS IN ELECTRONIC
 19 FORMAT DEEMED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF HOUSE
 20 AND SENATE RULES REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF
 21 PRINTED COPIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—If any rule or regulation of
 23 the House of Representatives or Senate requires a
 24 Member or committee to provide printed copies of
 25 any document (including any bill or resolution) for

1 the use of the House or Senate or for the use of any
2 office of the House or Senate, the Member or com-
3 mittee shall be considered to have met the require-
4 ment of the rule or regulation if the Member or com-
5 mittee makes the document available to the recipient
6 in an electronic format.

7 (2) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF
8 SENATE AND HOUSE.—This subsection is enacted by
9 Congress—

10 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
11 of the Senate and House of Representatives, re-
12 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of
13 the rules of each House, respectively, and it su-
14 persedes other rules only to the extent that it
15 is inconsistent with such rules; and

16 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
17 tional right of either House to change the rules
18 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
19 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
20 to the same extent as in the case of any other
21 rule of that House.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
23 ments made by this section shall apply with respect to doc-

- 1 uments produced after the expiration of the 30-day period
- 2 which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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