

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 395

To end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2017

Mrs. LOVE (for herself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BLUM, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. BRAT, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, 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 “One Subject at a Time
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME.**

2 (a) ONE SUBJECT.—Each bill or joint resolution
3 shall embrace no more than one subject.

4 (b) SUBJECT IN TITLE.—The subject of a bill or joint
5 resolution shall be clearly and descriptively expressed in
6 the title.

7 (c) APPROPRIATION BILLS.—An appropriations bill
8 shall not contain any general legislation or change of exist-
9 ing law provision, the subject of which is not germane to
10 the subject matter of each such appropriations bill pro-
11 vided however, that this section shall not be construed to
12 prohibit any provision imposing limitations upon the ex-
13 penditure of funds so appropriated.

14 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

15 (a) MULTIPLE SUBJECTS IN TITLE.—If the title of
16 an Act or joint resolution addresses two or more unrelated
17 subjects, then the entire Act or joint resolution is void.

18 (b) PROVISIONS NOT EXPRESSED IN TITLE.—If the
19 title of an Act or joint resolution addresses a single sub-
20 ject, but the Act contains one or more provisions con-
21 cerning a subject that is not clearly and descriptively ex-
22 pressed in its title, then only such provision or provisions
23 concerning the subject not clearly and descriptively ex-
24 pressed in the title shall be void.

25 (c) APPROPRIATION PROVISIONS OUTSIDE SUB-
26 COMMITTEE JURISDICTION.—If an Act appropriating

1 funds contains a provision outside of the jurisdiction of
2 the relevant subcommittee of the Committees on Appro-
3 priations of the House and of the Senate, and therefore
4 outside the subject of the bill, then such provision shall
5 be void.

6 (d) PROVISIONS OF APPROPRIATION BILLS NOT
7 GERMANE TO SUBJECT MATTER.—If an Act appro-
8 priating funds contains general legislation or change of ex-
9 isting law provision not germane to the subject matter of
10 such bill, then each and every such provision shall be void.

11 (e) COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION.—Any person
12 aggrieved by the enforcement of, or attempt or threat of
13 enforcement of, an Act passed without having complied
14 with section 2 or this section, or any Member of Congress
15 aggrieved by the failure of the House of Congress which
16 that individual is a member to comply with any require-
17 ment of those sections, shall, regardless of the amount in
18 controversy, have a cause of action under sections 2201
19 and 2202 of title 28, United States Code, against the
20 United States to seek appropriate relief, including an in-
21 junction against the enforcement of any law, the passage
22 of which did not conform to section 2 or this section.

1 (f) STATE OF REVIEW.—In any judicial action
2 brought pursuant to subsection (e), the standard of review
3 shall be de novo.

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