

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3845

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 1, 2020

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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”.

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

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

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

4 (c) APPROPRIATION BILLS.—An appropriations bill
5 shall not contain any general legislation or change to a
6 provision of existing law, the subject of which is not ger-
7 mane to the subject matter of each such appropriations
8 bill; provided, however, that this section shall not be con-
9 strued to prohibit any provision imposing limitations upon
10 the expenditure of funds so appropriated.

11 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

12 (a) MULTIPLE SUBJECTS IN TITLE.—If the title of
13 an Act or joint resolution addresses two or more unrelated
14 subjects, the entire Act or joint resolution is void.

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

22 (c) APPROPRIATION PROVISIONS OUTSIDE SUB-
23 COMMITTEE JURISDICTION.—If an Act appropriating
24 funds contains a provision outside of the jurisdiction of
25 the relevant subcommittee of the Committees on Appro-

1 priations of the House of Representatives and of the Sen-
 2 ate, and therefore outside the subject of the bill, such pro-
 3 vision shall be void.

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

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

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

○