

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 852

To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Mr. TALENT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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 chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Paperwork Elimination
3 Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

5 The purpose of this Act is to—

6 (1) minimize the burden of Federal paperwork
7 demands upon small businesses, educational and
8 nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State
9 and local governments, and other persons through
10 the sponsorship and use of alternative information
11 technologies, including the use of electronic mainte-
12 nance, submission, or disclosure of information to
13 substitute for paper; and

14 (2) more effectively enable Federal agencies to
15 achieve the purposes of chapter 35 of title 44,
16 United States Code, popularly known as the “Paper-
17 work Reduction Act”.

18 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF**
19 **THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**

20 (a) **DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT OF INFORMATION**
21 **TECHNOLOGY.**—Section 3504(a)(1)(B)(vi) of title 44,
22 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

23 “(vi) the acquisition and use of informa-
24 tion technology, including the use of alternative
25 information technologies, such as the use of

1 electronic submission, maintenance, or disclo-
2 sure of information to substitute for paper.”.

3 (b) **PROMOTION OF USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMA-**
4 **TION TECHNOLOGY.**—Section 3504(h) of title 44, United
5 States Code, is amended by striking “and” after the semi-
6 colon at the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period
7 at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting “; and”, and
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 “(6) specifically promote the optional use of
10 electronic maintenance, submission, or disclosure of
11 information where appropriate, as an alternative in-
12 formation technology to substitute for paper.”.

13 **SEC. 4. ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS AND DEADLINES.**

14 Section 3505(a)(3) of title 44, United States Code,
15 is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the
16 end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the
17 end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “; and”, and by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(D) a description of progress in providing
20 for the use of electronic submission, mainte-
21 nance, or disclosure of information to substitute
22 for paper, including the extent to which such
23 progress accomplishes reduction of burden on
24 small businesses or other persons.”.

1 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

2 (a) PROVIDING FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMA-
3 TION MANAGEMENT.—Section 3506(c)(1)(B) of title 44,
4 United States Code, is amended by striking “and” after
5 the semicolon at the end of clause (ii) and by adding at
6 the end the following:

7 “(iv) provides for the optional use,
8 where appropriate, of electronic mainte-
9 nance, submission, or disclosure of infor-
10 mation; and”.

11 (b) PROMOTION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION
12 MANAGEMENT.—Section 3506(c)(3)(C) of title 44, United
13 States Code, is amended by striking “or” after the semi-
14 colon at the end of clause (ii), by adding “or” after the
15 semicolon at the end of clause (iii), and by adding at the
16 end the following:

17 “(iv) the promotion and optional use,
18 where appropriate, of electronic mainte-
19 nance, submission, or disclosure of infor-
20 mation.”.

21 (c) USE OF ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION TECH-
22 NOLOGIES.—Section 3506(c)(3)(J) of title 44, United
23 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(J) to the maximum extent practicable,
2 uses alternative information technologies, in-
3 cluding the use of electronic maintenance, sub-
4 mission, or disclosure of information, to reduce
5 burden and improve data quality, agency effi-
6 ciency and responsiveness to the public.”.

7 **SEC. 6. PUBLIC INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES;**
8 **SUBMISSION TO DIRECTOR; APPROVAL AND**
9 **DELEGATION.**

10 Section 3507(a)(1)(D)(ii) of title 44, United States
11 Code, is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon
12 at the end of subclause (V), by adding “and” after the
13 semicolon at the end of subclause (VI), and by adding at
14 the end the following:

15 “(VII) a description of how re-
16 spondents may, if appropriate, elec-
17 tronically maintain, submit, or dis-
18 close information under the collection
19 of information.”.

20 **SEC. 7. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

21 Section 3514(a)(2) of title 44, United States Code,
22 is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the
23 end of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end
24 of subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”, and by adding
25 at the end the following:

1 “(E) reduced the collection of information bur-
2 den on small businesses and other persons through
3 the use of electronic maintenance, submission, or
4 disclosure of information to substitute for paper
5 maintenance, submission, or disclosure of informa-
6 tion, including—

7 “(i) a description of instances where such
8 substitution has added to burden; and

9 “(ii) specific identification of such in-
10 stances relating to the Internal Revenue Serv-
11 ice.”.

12 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 This Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

○