

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 852

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## AN ACT

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Paperwork Elimination  
5 Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7        The purpose of this Act is to—

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

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

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF**  
21 **THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**

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

1           “(vi) the acquisition and use of informa-  
2           tion technology, including the use of alternative  
3           information technologies, such as the use of  
4           electronic submission, maintenance, or disclo-  
5           sure of information to substitute for paper.”.

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

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

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

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

22           “(D) a description of progress in providing  
23          for the use of electronic submission, mainte-  
24          nance, or disclosure of information to substitute  
25          for paper, including the extent to which such

1 progress accomplishes reduction of burden on  
2 small businesses or other persons.”.

3 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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

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

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

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

23 (c) USE OF ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION TECH-  
24 NOLOGIES.—Section 3506(c)(3)(J) of title 44, United  
25 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.

          Passed the House of Representatives March 13,  
1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

*Clerk.*