

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 439

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 2, 1999

Mr. TALENT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SWEENEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, 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 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMA-**
5 **TION TECHNOLOGY.**

6 Section 3504(h) of title 44, United States Code, is
7 amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end
8 of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end of para-
9 graph (5) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the
10 end the following:

11 “(6) specifically promote the acquisition and
12 use of alternative information technologies that pro-
13 vide for electronic submission, maintenance, or dis-
14 closure of information as a substitute for paper and
15 for the use and acceptance of electronic signatures.”.

16 **SEC. 3. 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 acquisition and use of alternative infor-
24 mation technologies that provide for electronic
25 submission, maintenance, or disclosure of infor-
26 mation as a substitute for paper and for the use

1 and acceptance of electronic signatures, includ-
2 ing the extent to which such progress accom-
3 plishes reduction of burden on small businesses
4 or other persons.”.

5 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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

11 “(iv) provides to persons required to
12 submit information the option to use,
13 where appropriate, electronic submission,
14 maintenance, or disclosure of information;
15 and”.

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

22 “(iv) the promotion and optional use,
23 where appropriate, of electronic submis-
24 sion, maintenance, or disclosure of infor-
25 mation.”.

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

4 “(J) to the maximum extent practicable,
5 uses information technology, including alter-
6 native information technologies, that provide for
7 electronic submission, maintenance, or disclo-
8 sure of information, to reduce burden and im-
9 prove data quality, agency efficiency, and re-
10 sponsiveness to the public.”.

11 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES;**
12 **SUBMISSION TO DIRECTOR; APPROVAL AND**
13 **DELEGATION.**

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

19 “(VII) a description of how re-
20 spondents may, if appropriate, elec-
21 tronically submit, maintain, or dis-
22 close information under the collection
23 of information.”.

1 **SEC. 6. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

2 Section 3514(a)(2) of title 44, United States Code,
3 is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the
4 end of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end
5 of subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”, and by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 “(E) reduced the collection of information bur-
8 den on small businesses and other persons through
9 the use of electronic submission, maintenance, or
10 disclosure of information as a substitute for the use
11 of paper, including—

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

14 “(ii) specific identification of such in-
15 stances relating to the Internal Revenue
16 Service.”.

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