

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 439

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Received

FEBRUARY 22, 1999

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 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTION OF USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMA-**  
7 **TION TECHNOLOGY.**

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

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

18 **SEC. 3. ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS AND DEADLINES.**

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

24            “(D) a description of progress in providing  
25 for the acquisition and use of alternative infor-

1           mation technologies that provide for electronic  
2           submission, maintenance, or disclosure of infor-  
3           mation as a substitute for paper and for the use  
4           and acceptance of electronic signatures, includ-  
5           ing the extent to which such progress accom-  
6           plishes reduction of burden on small businesses  
7           or other persons.”.

8   **SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

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

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

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

1                   “(iv) the promotion and optional use,  
2                   where appropriate, of electronic submis-  
3                   sion, maintenance, or disclosure of infor-  
4                   mation.”.

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

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

15 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES;**  
16                   **SUBMISSION TO DIRECTOR; APPROVAL AND**  
17                   **DELEGATION.**

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

23                   “(VII) a description of how re-  
24                   spondents may, if appropriate, elec-  
25                   tronically submit, maintain, or dis-

1 close information under the collection  
2 of information.”.

3 **SEC. 6. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

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

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

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

16 “(ii) specific identification of such in-  
17 stances relating to the Internal Revenue Serv-  
18 ice.”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 9,  
1999.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*