

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2948

To direct the Comptroller General to enter into arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences and the Librarian of Congress for conducting a study on the feasibility and costs of implementing an emergency electronic communications system for Congress to ensure the continuity of the operations of Congress during an emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. CROWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General to enter into arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences and the Librarian of Congress for conducting a study on the feasibility and costs of implementing an emergency electronic communications system for Congress to ensure the continuity of the operations of Congress during an emergency, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. STUDY OF EMERGENCY ELECTRONIC COMMU-**
2 **NICATIONS SYSTEM FOR CONGRESS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall
4 enter into—

5 (1) an arrangement with the National Academy
6 of Sciences for conducting a study on the feasibility
7 of, and the costs associated with, the implementation
8 of an emergency electronic communications system
9 for Congress which would ensure the continuity of
10 the operations of Congress during an emergency (in-
11 cluding an emergency under which Congress would
12 be unable to assemble at a single location); and

13 (2) an arrangement with the Librarian of Con-
14 gress for conducting a study to identify any con-
15 stitutional and procedural issues which may arise
16 under the implementation of such a system.

17 (b) ELEMENTS OF ARRANGEMENT WITH NATIONAL
18 ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Under the arrangement entered
19 into under subsection (a)(1), the National Academy of
20 Sciences shall include in the study—

21 (1) the identification and evaluation of issues
22 relating to security, authentication, and usability
23 under the electronic communications system, and
24 shall identify options for addressing these issues;
25 and

1 (2) an evaluation of the effects of such a system
2 on the operations of Congress (including the delib-
3 erations of members and committees) and the ability
4 of the public to observe and interact with Congress,
5 based on current understandings of the effects of
6 comparable systems on governments and other insti-
7 tutions, and the identification of options for miti-
8 gating any negative effects.

9 **SEC. 2. REPORTS.**

10 (a) **DEADLINE.**—Under the arrangements entered
11 into under section 1(a), the National Academy of Sciences
12 and the Librarian of Congress shall each submit a report
13 on the study conducted under the applicable arrangement
14 to the Comptroller General not later than 1 year after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act.

16 (b) **TRANSMISSION OF CONSOLIDATED REPORT TO**
17 **COMMITTEES.**—Upon receiving the reports under sub-
18 section (a), the Comptroller General shall transmit the re-
19 ports in a consolidated version to the Committee on House
20 Administration of the House of Representatives and the
21 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, to-
22 gether with a version of the report which is appropriate
23 for release to the public.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 the arrangement entered into under this Act not more
4 than \$800,000.

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