

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3826

To require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years
for purposes of evaluating their performance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To require the review of Government programs at least once
every 5 years for purposes of evaluating their performance.

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 “Program Assessment
5 and Results Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) inefficiency and ineffectiveness in Federal
9 programs undermines the confidence of the Amer-
10 ican people in the Government and reduces the Fed-

1 eral Government’s ability to adequately address vital
2 public needs;

3 (2) insufficient information on program per-
4 formance seriously disadvantages Federal managers
5 in their efforts to improve program efficiency and ef-
6 fectiveness;

7 (3) congressional policy making, spending deci-
8 sions, and program oversight are handicapped by in-
9 sufficient attention to program performance and re-
10 sults;

11 (4) programs performing similar or duplicative
12 functions that exist within a single agency or across
13 multiple agencies should be identified and their per-
14 formance and results shared among all such pro-
15 grams to improve their performance and results;

16 (5) advocates of good government continue to
17 seek ways to improve accountability, focus on re-
18 sults, and integrate the performance of programs
19 with decisions about budgets;

20 (6) with the passage of the Government Per-
21 formance and Results Act of 1993, the Congress di-
22 rected the executive branch to seek improvements in
23 the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of
24 Federal programs by having agencies focus on pro-
25 gram results; and

1 (7) the Government Performance and Results
2 Act of 1993 provided a strong framework for the ex-
3 ecutive branch to monitor the long-term goals and
4 annual performance of its departments and agencies.

5 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

6 The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to improve the Government Performance
8 and Results Act of 1993 by implementing a program
9 review and evaluation process that attempts to de-
10 termine the strengths and weaknesses of Federal
11 programs with a particular focus on the results pro-
12 duced by individual programs;

13 (2) to use the information gathered in the re-
14 view and evaluation process to build on the ground-
15 work laid in the Government Performance and Re-
16 sults Act of 1993 to help the executive branch make
17 informed management decisions and evidence-based
18 funding requests aimed at achieving positive results;
19 and

20 (3) to provide congressional policy makers the
21 information needed to conduct more effective over-
22 sight, to make better-informed authorization deci-
23 sions, and to make more evidence-based spending
24 decisions that achieve positive results for the Amer-
25 ican people.

1 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM REVIEW AND EVALUATION.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRAM REVIEWS.—Chapter
3 ter 11 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by the
4 Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1120. Program review and evaluation**

7 “(a) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Man-
8 agement and Budget shall conduct a review of each pro-
9 gram activity at least once every 5 fiscal years.

10 “(b) REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting a re-
11 view of a program activity under subsection (a), the Direc-
12 tor of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

13 “(1) consult with the relevant agency; and

14 “(2) evaluate the purpose, design, strategic
15 plan, management, and results of the program, and
16 such other matters as the Director considers appro-
17 priate.

18 “(c) CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING PROGRAMS TO RE-
19 VIEW.—The Director of the Office of Management and
20 Budget shall develop criteria for identifying program ac-
21 tivities to be reviewed each fiscal year. In developing the
22 criteria, the Director shall take into account the advan-
23 tages of reviewing during the same fiscal year any pro-
24 gram activities that are performing similar functions or
25 have similar purposes.

1 “(d) CRITERIA FOR MORE FREQUENT REVIEWS.—

2 The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
3 shall make every effort to review program activities more
4 frequently than required under subsection (a) in cases in
5 which program activities are determined to be of higher
6 priority, special circumstances exist, improvements have
7 been made, or the head of the relevant agency and the
8 Director determine that more frequent review is war-
9 ranted.

10 “(e) REPORT.—The results of the reviews conducted
11 during a fiscal year shall be submitted in a report to Con-
12 gress at the same time that the President submits the next
13 budget under section 1105 of this title after the end of
14 that fiscal year.”.

15 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-
17 fice of Management and Budget shall prescribe guidance
18 to implement the requirements of section 1120 of title 31,
19 United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

20 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115(g) of
21 title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking
22 “1119” and inserting “1120”.

23 **SEC. 5. STRATEGIC PLANNING AMENDMENTS.**

24 (a) CHANGE IN DEADLINE FOR STRATEGIC PLAN.—
25 Subsection (a) of section 306 of title 5, United States

1 Code, is amended by striking “Not later than September
2 30, 1997,” and inserting “Not later than September 30
3 of each year following a year in which an election for
4 President occurs, beginning with September 30, 2005, ”.

5 (b) CHANGE IN PERIOD OF COVERAGE OF STRA-
6 TEGIC PLAN.—Subsection (b) of section 306 of title 5,
7 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) Each strategic plan shall cover the 4-year period
9 beginning on October 1 of the year following a year in
10 which an election for President occurs.”.

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