

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4195

To amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2014

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONNOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Register Mod-  
5 ernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.**

7 (a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title  
8 44, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) in section 1502—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “**print-**  
2 **ing**” and inserting “**publishing**”; and

3 (B) by striking “printing and distribution”  
4 and inserting “publishing”;

5 (2) in section 1507 is amended—

6 (A) by striking “the duplicate originals or  
7 certified copies of the document have” and in-  
8 serting “the document has”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “print-  
10 ed” and inserting “published”; and

11 (3) in section 1509, in subsections (a) and (b)  
12 of, by striking “printing, reprinting, wrapping, bind-  
13 ing, and distributing” and inserting “publishing”,  
14 each place it appears.

15 (b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44,  
16 United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) by striking “; and” at the end of the defini-  
18 tion for “person” and inserting a semicolon;

19 (2) by inserting after the definition for “per-  
20 son” the following:

21 “‘publish’ means to circulate for sale or dis-  
22 tribution to the public; and”.

23 (c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMEND-  
24 MENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of**  
2 **time; public inspection; transmission for**  
3 **publishing**

4 “The original document required or authorized to be  
5 published by section 1505 of this title shall be filed with  
6 the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times  
7 established by the Administrative Committee of the Fed-  
8 eral Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United  
9 States shall cause to be noted on the original of each docu-  
10 ment the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document  
11 shall be immediately available for public inspection in the  
12 Office. The original shall be retained by the National Ar-  
13 chives and Records Administration and shall be available  
14 for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archi-  
15 vist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with  
16 disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Com-  
17 mittee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regula-  
18 tions issued under chapter 33 of this title; however, origi-  
19 nals of proclamations of the President and Executive or-  
20 ders shall be permanently retained by the Administration  
21 as part of the National Archives of the United States. The  
22 Office shall transmit to the Government Printing Office,  
23 as provided by this chapter, each document required or  
24 authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title.  
25 Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for

1 filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed,  
2 or promulgated by the agency.”.

3 (d) FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section  
4 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 “§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; dis-  
7 tribution; price

8 “Documents required or authorized to be published  
9 by section 1505 of this title shall be published immediately  
10 by the Government Printing Office in a serial publication  
11 designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Public Printer shall  
12 make available the facilities of the Government Printing  
13 Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register  
14 in the manner and at the times required by this chapter  
15 and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of  
16 the daily issues shall constitute all documents, required  
17 or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the  
18 Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately  
19 preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under  
20 this chapter. There shall be published with each document  
21 a copy of the notation, required to be made by section  
22 1503 of this title, of the day and hour when, upon filing  
23 with the Office, the document was made available for pub-  
24 lic inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the  
25 morning of the day of distribution fixed by regulations

1 prescribed under this chapter. The prices to be charged  
2 for the Federal Register may be fixed by the Administra-  
3 tive Committee of the Federal Register established by sec-  
4 tion 1506 of this title without reference to the restrictions  
5 placed upon and fixed for the sale of Government publica-  
6 tions by sections 1705 and 1708 of this title.”.

7 (e) DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL  
8 REGISTER.—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code,  
9 is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in the heading, by striking “COM-  
12 MENTS” and inserting “NEWS COMMENTARY”;  
13 and

14 (B) by striking “comments” and inserting  
15 “news commentary”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c), in the matter following  
17 paragraph (2)—

18 (A) by inserting “telecommunications, the  
19 Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

20 (B) by striking “and two duplicate origi-  
21 nals or two certified copies” and inserting “doc-  
22 ument”.

23 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL  
24 REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1506 of title 44,  
25 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 1506. Administrative Committee of the Federal**  
2 **Register; establishment and composition;**  
3 **powers and duties**

4 “The Administrative Committee of the Federal Reg-  
5 ister shall consist of the Archivist of the United States  
6 or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an offi-  
7 cer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attor-  
8 ney General, and the Public Printer or Acting Public  
9 Printer. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as  
10 secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe,  
11 with the approval of the President, regulations for car-  
12 rying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for,  
13 among other things—

14 “(1) the documents which shall be authorized  
15 under section 1505(b) of this title to be published in  
16 the Federal Register;

17 “(2) the manner and form in which the Federal  
18 Register shall be published;

19 “(3) the manner of distribution to Members of  
20 Congress, officers and employees of the United  
21 States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the  
22 number which shall be available for distribution to  
23 the public;

24 “(4) the prices to be charged for individual cop-  
25 ies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register  
26 and any reprints and bound volumes of it;

1           “(5) the manner and form by which the Federal  
2       Register may receive information and comments  
3       from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

4           “(6) special editions of the Federal Register.”.

5       (g) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMEND-  
6       MENT.—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is  
7       amended to read as follows:

8       **“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations**

9           “(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGEN-  
10      CY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the  
11      Federal Register, with the approval of the President, may  
12      require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the  
13      preparation and publication in a special edition of the Fed-  
14      eral Register a complete codification of the documents of  
15      each agency of the Government having general applica-  
16      bility and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency  
17      by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with  
18      the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon  
19      by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by  
20      it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are  
21      in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by  
22      the Administrative Committee.

23           “(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codifica-  
24      tion prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be  
25      published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal

1 Regulations'. The Administrative Committee shall regu-  
2 late the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

3       “(c) SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND REPUBLI-  
4 CATION.—The Administrative Committee shall regulate  
5 the supplementation and the collation and republication  
6 of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Fed-  
7 eral Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of  
8 codification shall be supplemented and republished at least  
9 once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Reg-  
10 ister may create updates of each unit of codification from  
11 time to time and make the same available electronically  
12 or may provide public access using an electronic edition  
13 that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve  
14 the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

15       “(d) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FED-  
16 ERAL REGISTER.—The Office of the Federal Register  
17 shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements,  
18 collations, and user aids authorized by this section.

19       “(e) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—The codified docu-  
20 ments of the several agencies published in the Code of  
21 Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by  
22 documents subsequently filed with the Office and pub-  
23 lished in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall  
24 be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and



1 of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date  
2 of publication.

3 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Administrative Committee,  
4 with approval of the President, shall issue regulations for  
5 carrying out this section.

6 “(g) EXCEPTION.—This section does not require  
7 codification of the text of Presidential documents pub-  
8 lished and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3  
9 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

10 (h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
11 The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United  
12 States Code, is amended by striking the items related to  
13 sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.

“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; trans-  
mission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price.”.

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