

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5876

To require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. BRAT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HONDA, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. KIND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, 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 “Access to Congression-
5 ally Mandated Reports Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE FOR CONGRESSION-**
2 **ALLY MANDATED REPORTS.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH WEBSITE.—Not
4 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
5 Act, the Director of the Government Publishing Office
6 shall establish and maintain a website accessible by the
7 public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of
8 all congressionally mandated reports in one place. The Di-
9 rector of the Government Publishing Office may publish
10 other reports on such website.

11 (b) CONTENT AND FUNCTION.—The Director of the
12 Government Publishing Office shall ensure that the
13 website required under subsection (a) includes the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (1) With respect to each congressionally man-
16 dated report, each of the following:

17 (A) A citation to the statute or conference
18 report requiring the report.

19 (B) An electronic copy of the report, in-
20 cluding any transmittal letter associated with
21 the report, in an open format that is platform
22 independent and that is available to the public
23 without restrictions, including restrictions that
24 would impede the re-use of the information in
25 the report.

1 (C) The ability to retrieve a report, to the
2 extent practicable, through searches based on
3 each, and any combination, of the following:

4 (i) The title of the report.

5 (ii) The reporting Federal agency.

6 (iii) The date of publication.

7 (iv) Each congressional committee re-
8 ceiving the report, if applicable.

9 (v) Subject tags.

10 (vi) The serial number, Super-
11 intendent of Documents number, or other
12 identification number for the report, if ap-
13 plicable.

14 (vii) The statute or conference report
15 requiring the report.

16 (viii) Key words.

17 (ix) Full text search.

18 (x) Any other relevant information
19 specified by the Director of the Govern-
20 ment Publishing Office.

21 (D) The time and date when the report
22 was required to be submitted, and when the re-
23 port was submitted, to the website.

24 (E) Access to the report not later than 30
25 calendar days after its submission to Congress.

1 (F) To the extent practicable, a permanent
2 means of accessing the report electronically.

3 (2) A means for bulk download of all congress-
4 sionally mandated reports or a selection of reports
5 retrieved using a search.

6 (3) A means for the head of each Federal agen-
7 cy to publish on the website each congressionally
8 mandated report of the agency, as required by sec-
9 tion 3.

10 (4) A list form for all congressionally mandated
11 reports that can be searched, sorted, and down-
12 loaded by—

13 (A) reports submitted within the required
14 time;

15 (B) reports submitted after the date on
16 which such reports were required to be sub-
17 mitted; and

18 (C) reports not submitted.

19 (c) FREE ACCESS.—The Director of the Government
20 Publishing Office may not charge a fee, require registra-
21 tion, or impose any other limitation in exchange for access
22 to the website required under subsection (a).

23 (d) UPGRADE CAPABILITY.—The website required
24 under subsection (a) shall be enhanced and updated as
25 necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

2 (a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF RE-
3 PORTS.—The head of each Federal agency shall publish
4 congressionally mandated reports of the agency on the
5 website required under section 2(a)—

6 (1) in an open format that is platform inde-
7 pendent, machine readable, and available to the pub-
8 lic without restrictions (except the redaction of infor-
9 mation described under section 5), including restric-
10 tions that would impede the re-use of the informa-
11 tion in the reports; and

12 (2) in accordance with the guidance issued
13 under subsection (c).

14 (b) SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—
15 The head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Di-
16 rector of the Government Publishing Office the informa-
17 tion required under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of sec-
18 tion 2(b)(1) with respect to each congressionally mandated
19 report published pursuant to subsection (a).

20 (c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than eight months after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
22 Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with
23 the Director of the Government Publishing Office, shall
24 issue guidance to agencies on the implementation of this
25 Act.

1 **SEC. 4. REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS.**

2 A report submitted to be published to the website re-
3 quired under section 2(a) may only be changed or re-
4 moved, with the exception of technical changes, by the
5 head of the Federal agency concerned with the express,
6 written consent of the chairman of each congressional
7 committee to which the report is submitted.

8 **SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMA-**
9 **TION ACT.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
11 strued to require the disclosure of information or records
12 that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552
13 of title 5, United States Code, or to impose any affirmative
14 duty on the Director of the Government Publishing Office
15 to review congressionally mandated reports submitted for
16 publication to the website established under section 2(a)
17 for the purpose of identifying and redacting such informa-
18 tion or records.

19 (b) REDACTION OF REPORT.—With respect to each
20 congressionally mandated report, the relevant head of each
21 Federal agency shall redact any information that may not
22 be publicly released under section 552(b) of title 5, United
23 States Code, before submission for publication on the
24 website established under section 2(a), and shall—

25 (1) redact only such information from the re-
26 port;

1 (2) identify where any such redaction is made
2 in the report; and

3 (3) identify the exemption under which each
4 such redaction is made.

5 (c) WITHHOLDING INFORMATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency—

7 (A) may withhold information otherwise re-
8 quired to be disclosed pursuant to this Act only
9 if—

10 (i) the Federal agency reasonably
11 foresees that disclosure would harm an in-
12 terest protected by an exemption described
13 in section 552(b) of title 5, United States
14 Code; or

15 (ii) disclosure is prohibited by law;
16 and

17 (B) shall—

18 (i) consider whether partial disclosure
19 of information is possible whenever the
20 Federal agency determines that a full dis-
21 closure of a requested record is not pos-
22 sible; and

23 (ii) take reasonable steps necessary to
24 segregate and release nonexempt informa-
25 tion.

1 (2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this
2 subsection requires disclosure of information that is
3 otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law, or oth-
4 erwise exempted from disclosure under section
5 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.**—
9 The term “congressionally mandated report” means
10 a report that is required to be submitted to either
11 House of Congress or any committee of Congress by
12 statute or by a conference report that accompanies
13 legislation enacted into law.

14 (2) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal
15 agency” has the meaning given that term under sec-
16 tion 102 of title 40, United States Code, but does
17 not include the Government Accountability Office.

18 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION.**

19 Except as provided in section 3(c), this Act shall be
20 implemented not later than one year after the date of the
21 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to con-
22 gressionally mandated reports submitted to Congress on
23 or after the date occurring one year after such date of
24 enactment.

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