

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4887  
OFFERED BY MS. FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reporting Effi-  
3 ciency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2018” or the  
4 “GREAT Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

6       The purposes of this Act are to—

7           (1) modernize reporting by recipients of Federal  
8 grants and cooperative agreements by creating and  
9 imposing data standards for the information that  
10 grants and cooperative agreement recipients must  
11 report to the Federal Government;

12           (2) implement the recommendation by the Di-  
13 rector of the Office of Management and Budget,  
14 under section 5(b)(6) of the Federal Funding Ac-  
15 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31  
16 U.S.C. 6101 note), which includes the development  
17 of a “comprehensive taxonomy of standard defini-

1 tions for core data elements required for managing  
2 Federal financial assistance awards”;

3 (3) reduce burden and compliance costs of re-  
4 cipients of Federal grants and cooperative agree-  
5 ments by enabling technology solutions, existing or  
6 yet to be developed, by both the public and private  
7 sectors, to better manage data recipients already  
8 provide to the Federal Government; and

9 (4) to strengthen oversight and management of  
10 Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agen-  
11 cies through consolidated collection and display of  
12 and access to open data that has been standardized,  
13 and where appropriate, transparency to the public.

14 **SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

15 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle V of title 31, United  
16 States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the  
17 following new chapter:

18 **“CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR**  
19 **GRANT REPORTING**

“Sec. 6401. Definitions

“Sec. 6402. Data standards for grant reporting

“Sec. 6403. Guidance applying data standards for grant reporting

“Sec. 6404. Agency requirements

20 **“SEC. 6401. DEFINITIONS.**

21 “In this chapter:

22 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the  
23 meaning given that term in section 552(f) of title 5.

1           “(2) CORE DATA ELEMENTS.—The term ‘core  
2 data elements’ means data elements that are not  
3 program-specific in nature and are required by agen-  
4 cies for all or the vast majority of Federal grant and  
5 cooperative assistance recipients for purposes of re-  
6 porting.

7           “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means  
8 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
9 et.

10           “(4) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal  
11 award’—

12           “(A) means the transfer of anything of  
13 value for a public purpose of support or stimu-  
14 lation authorized by a law of the United States,  
15 including financial assistance and Government  
16 facilities, services, and property;

17           “(B) includes grants, subgrants, awards,  
18 and cooperative agreements; and

19           “(C) does not include—

20           “(i) conventional public information  
21 services or procurement of property or  
22 services for the direct benefit or use of the  
23 Government; or

24           “(ii) an agreement that provides  
25 only—

1 “(I) direct Government cash as-  
2 sistance to an individual;

3 “(II) a subsidy;

4 “(III) a loan;

5 “(IV) a loan guarantee; or

6 “(V) insurance.

7 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
8 the head of the standard-setting agency.

9 “(6) STANDARD-SETTING AGENCY.—The term  
10 ‘standard-setting agency’ means the Executive de-  
11 partment designated under section 6402(a)(1).

12 “(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each  
13 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
14 each commonwealth, territory or possession of the  
15 United States, and each federally recognized Indian  
16 Tribe.

17 **“SEC. 6402. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(1) DESIGNATION OF STANDARD-SETTING  
20 AGENCY.—The Director shall designate the Execu-  
21 tive department (as defined in section 101 of title 5)  
22 that issues the most Federal awards in a calendar  
23 year as the standard-setting agency.

24 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not  
25 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of

1       this chapter, the Secretary and the Director shall es-  
2       tablish Governmentwide data standards for informa-  
3       tion reported by recipients of Federal awards.

4               “(3) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data standards  
5       established under paragraph (2) shall include, at a  
6       minimum—

7                       “(A) standard definitions for data elements  
8       required for managing Federal awards; and

9                       “(B) unique and nonproprietary identifiers  
10       for Federal awards and entities receiving Fed-  
11       eral awards that can be consistently applied  
12       Governmentwide.

13       “(b) SCOPE.—The data standards established under  
14       subsection (a) shall include core data elements and may  
15       cover any information required to be reported to any agen-  
16       cy by recipients of Federal awards, including audit-related  
17       information reported under chapter 75 of this title.

18       “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards required  
19       to be established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent  
20       reasonable and practicable—

21                       “(1) render information reported by recipients  
22       of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards  
23       fully searchable and machine-readable;

24                       “(2) be nonproprietary;

1           “(3) incorporate standards developed and main-  
2           tained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

3           “(4) be consistent with and implement applica-  
4           ble accounting and reporting principles; and

5           “(5) incorporate the data standards established  
6           under the Federal Funding Accountability and  
7           Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

8           “(d) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the data  
9           standards under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Di-  
10          rector shall consult with, as appropriate—

11           “(1) the Secretary of the Treasury, to ensure  
12           that the data standards incorporate the data stand-  
13           ards created under the Federal Funding Account-  
14           ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C.  
15           6101 note);

16           “(2) the head of each agency that issues Fed-  
17           eral awards;

18           “(3) recipients of Federal awards and organiza-  
19           tions representing recipients of Federal awards;

20           “(4) private sector experts;

21           “(5) members of the public, including privacy  
22           experts, privacy advocates, and industry stake-  
23           holders; and

24           “(6) State and local governments.

1 **“SEC. 6403. GUIDANCE APPLYING DATA STANDARDS FOR**  
2 **GRANT REPORTING.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
4 date of the enactment of this chapter—

5 “(1) the Secretary and the Director shall issue  
6 guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to  
7 apply the data standards established under section  
8 6402 to all applicable reporting by recipients of Fed-  
9 eral grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

10 “(2) the Director shall prescribe guidance ap-  
11 plying the data standards to audit-related informa-  
12 tion reported under chapter 75.

13 “(b) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued under this  
14 section shall—

15 “(1) to the extent reasonable and practicable—

16 “(A) minimize the disruption to existing  
17 reporting practices for agencies and for recipi-  
18 ents of Federal grant and cooperative agree-  
19 ment awards; and

20 “(B) explore opportunities to implement  
21 modern technologies within Federal award re-  
22 porting;

23 “(2) allow the Director to permit exceptions for  
24 categories of grants if the Director publishes a list  
25 of such exceptions, including exceptions for Indian  
26 Tribes and Tribal organizations consistent with the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
2 Act; and

3 “(3) take into consideration the consultation re-  
4 quired under section 6402(d).

5 **“SEC. 6404. AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.**

6 “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-  
7 ment of this chapter, the head of each agency shall ensure  
8 that all of the agency’s grants and cooperative agreements  
9 use data standards for all future information collection re-  
10 quests and amend existing information collection requests  
11 covered by chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to  
12 as the Paperwork Reduction Act) to comply with the data  
13 standards established under section 6402, consistent with  
14 the guidance issued by the Secretary and the Director  
15 under section 6403.”

16 (b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—**

17 The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 31, United  
18 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
19 ing to chapter 63 the following new item:

“64. Data standards for grant reporting .....

20 **SEC. 4. SINGLE AUDIT ACT.**

21 (a) **AMENDMENTS.—**

22 (1) Section 7502(h) of title 31, United States  
23 Code, is amended by inserting before “to a Federal  
24 clearinghouse” the following “in an electronic form



1 consistent with the data standards established under  
2 chapter 64,”.

3 (2) Section 7505 of title 31, United States  
4 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following  
5 new subsection:

6 “(d) Such guidance shall require audit-related infor-  
7 mation reported under this chapter to be reported in an  
8 electronic form consistent with the data standards estab-  
9 lished under chapter 64.”.

10 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue  
12 guidance requiring audit-related information reported  
13 under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, to be  
14 reported in an electronic form consistent with the data  
15 standards established under chapter 64 of title 31, United  
16 States Code, as added by section 3.

17 **SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATION OF ASSISTANCE-RELATED INFOR-**  
18 **MATION; PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMA-**  
19 **TION AS OPEN DATA.**

20 (a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than  
21 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
22 Secretary and the Director shall enable the collection, pub-  
23 lic display, and maintenance of Federal award information  
24 as a Governmentwide data set, using the data standards  
25 established under chapter 64 of title 31, United States

1 Code, as added by section 3, subject to reasonable restric-  
2 tions established by the Director to ensure protection of  
3 personally identifiable and otherwise sensitive information.

4 (b) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
5 and the Director shall require the publication of recipient-  
6 reported data collected from all agencies on a single public  
7 portal. Information may be published on an existing Gov-  
8 ernmentwide website as determined appropriate by the Di-  
9 rector.

10 (c) FOIA.—Nothing in this section shall require the  
11 disclosure to the public of information that would be ex-  
12 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United  
13 States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Infor-  
14 mation Act”).

15 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act, the terms “agency”, “Director”, “Fed-  
17 eral award”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given  
18 those terms in section 6401 of title 31, United States  
19 Code, as added by section 3(a).

20 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

21 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this  
22 Act, shall be construed to require the collection of data  
23 that is not otherwise required pursuant to any Federal  
24 law, rule, or regulation.

