

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1654

To amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 amend title 44, United States Code, 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; and

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 Publishing 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 Publishing Office in a serial publica-
11 tion designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Director of the
12 Government Publishing Office shall make available the fa-
13 cilities of the Government Publishing Office for the
14 prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner
15 and at the times required by this chapter and the regula-
16 tions prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues
17 shall constitute all documents, required or authorized to
18 be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register
19 up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day
20 of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter.
21 There shall be published with each document a copy of
22 the notation, required to be made by section 1503 of this
23 title, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Of-
24 fice, the document was made available for public inspec-
25 tion. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning

1 of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed
2 under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Fed-
3 eral Register may be fixed by the Administrative Com-
4 mittee of the Federal Register established by section 1506
5 of this title without reference to the restrictions placed
6 upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications
7 by sections 1705 and 1708 of this title.”.

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

11 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 **“§ 1506. Administrative Committee of the Federal**
5 **Register; establishment and composition;**
6 **powers and duties**

7 “The Administrative Committee of the Federal Reg-
8 ister shall consist of the Archivist of the United States
9 or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an offi-
10 cer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attor-
11 ney General, and the Director of the Government Pub-
12 lishing Office or Acting Director of the Government Pub-
13 lishing Office. The Director of the Federal Register shall
14 act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall
15 prescribe, with the approval of the President, regulations
16 for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide
17 for, among other things—

18 “(1) the documents which shall be authorized
19 under section 1505(b) of this title to be published in
20 the Federal Register;

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

23 “(3) the manner of distribution to Members of
24 Congress, officers and employees of the United
25 States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the

1 number which shall be available for distribution to
2 the public;

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

6 “(5) the manner and form by which the Federal
7 Register may receive information and comments
8 from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

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

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

13 **“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations**

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

1 in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by
2 the Administrative Committee.

3 “(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codifica-
4 tion prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be
5 published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal
6 Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regu-
7 late the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

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

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

24 “(e) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—The codified docu-
25 ments of the several agencies published in the Code of

1 Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by
2 documents subsequently filed with the Office and pub-
3 lished in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall
4 be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and
5 of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date
6 of publication.

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

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

14 (h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
15 The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United
16 States Code, is amended by striking the items related to
17 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.”.

18 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

19 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
20 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
21 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
22 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
23 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record

1 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
2 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
3 vote on passage.

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