

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2560

To amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

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 “Congressional Budget
5 Justification Transparency Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS**
2 **AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding
4 Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C.
5 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than monthly
8 when practicable, and in any event not less frequently than
9 quarterly, the Secretary (in consultation with the Director
10 and, with respect to information described in subsection
11 (b)(2), the head of the applicable Federal agency) shall
12 ensure that updated information with respect to the infor-
13 mation described in subsection (b) is posted on the website
14 established under section 2.

15 “(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—

16 “(1) FUNDS.—For any funds made available to
17 or expended by a Federal agency or component of a
18 Federal agency, the information to be posted shall
19 include—

20 “(A) for each appropriations account, in-
21 cluding an expired or unexpired appropriations
22 account, the amount—

23 “(i) of budget authority appropriated;

24 “(ii) that is obligated;

25 “(iii) of unobligated balances; and

1 “(iv) of any other budgetary re-
2 sources;

3 “(B) from which accounts and in what
4 amount—

5 “(i) appropriations are obligated for
6 each program activity; and

7 “(ii) outlays are made for each pro-
8 gram activity;

9 “(C) from which accounts and in what
10 amount—

11 “(i) appropriations are obligated for
12 each object class; and

13 “(ii) outlays are made for each object
14 class; and

15 “(D) for each program activity, the
16 amount—

17 “(i) obligated for each object class;
18 and

19 “(ii) of outlays made for each object
20 class.

21 “(2) BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—

22 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

23 “(i) the term ‘agency’ has the mean-
24 ing given that term in section 101 of title
25 31, United States Code; and

1 “(ii) the term ‘budget justification
2 materials’ means the annual budget jus-
3 tification materials of an agency that are
4 submitted to Congress in support of the
5 budget of the agency, in conjunction with
6 the budget of the United States Govern-
7 ment submitted under section 1105(a) of
8 title 31, United States Code.

9 “(B) INFORMATION.—The information to
10 be posted shall include the budget justification
11 materials of each agency—

12 “(i) for the second fiscal year begin-
13 ning after the date of enactment of this
14 paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter;
15 and

16 “(ii) to the extent practicable, that
17 were released for any fiscal year before the
18 date of enactment of this paragraph.

19 “(C) FORMAT.—Budget justification mate-
20 rials shall be posted under subparagraph (B)—

21 “(i) in an open format;

22 “(ii) in a manner that enables users
23 to download individual reports, download
24 all reports in bulk, and download in bulk

1 the results of a search, to the extent prac-
2 ticable; and

3 “(iii) in a structured data format, to
4 the extent practicable.

5 “(D) DEADLINE.—The budget justification
6 materials required to be posted under subpara-
7 graph (B)(i) shall be posted not later than 2
8 weeks after the date on which the budget jus-
9 tification materials are first submitted to Con-
10 gress.

11 “(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
12 in this paragraph shall be construed to author-
13 ize an agency to destroy any budget justifica-
14 tion materials relating to a fiscal year before
15 the fiscal year described in subparagraph
16 (B)(i).”.

17 (b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET
18 JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States
19 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(i)(1) The Director of the Office of Management
21 and Budget shall make publicly available on an internet
22 website, and continuously update, a tabular list for each
23 fiscal year of each agency that submits to Congress budget
24 justification materials in support of the budget of the
25 agency, which shall include—

1 “(A) the name of the agency;

2 “(B) a unique identifier that identifies the
3 agency;

4 “(C) to the extent practicable, the date on
5 which the budget justification materials of the agen-
6 cy are first submitted to Congress;

7 “(D) the date on which the budget justification
8 materials of the agency are posted online under sec-
9 tion 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
10 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

11 “(E) the uniform resource locator where the
12 budget justification materials submitted to Congress
13 are published on the website of the agency; and

14 “(F) a single data set that contains the infor-
15 mation described in subparagraphs (A) through (E)
16 with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for
17 which budget justifications of the agency are made
18 available under section 3 of the Federal Funding Ac-
19 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31
20 U.S.C. 6101 note) in a structured data format.

21 “(2)(A) Each agency that submits to Congress budg-
22 et justification materials in support of the budget of the
23 agency shall make the materials available on the website
24 of the agency.

1 “(B) The Director of Office of Management and
2 Budget shall establish best practices for agencies relating
3 to making available materials under subparagraph (A)(i),
4 which shall include guidelines for using a uniform resource
5 locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and
6 is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the
7 format of ‘agencyname.gov/budget’.

8 “(C) If the Director of Office of Management and
9 Budget maintains a public website that contains the budg-
10 et of the United States Government submitted under sub-
11 section (a) and any related materials, such website shall
12 also contain a link to the tabular list required under para-
13 graph (1).

14 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘budget justification
15 materials’ has the meaning given that term in section 3
16 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency
17 Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).”.

○