

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1411

To require the Public Printer 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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2011

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To require the Public Printer 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 Public Printer shall establish and maintain a
6 website accessible by the public that allows the public to
7 obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated re-
8 ports in one place. The Public Printer may publish other
9 reports on such website.

10 (b) **CONTENT AND FUNCTION.**—The Public Printer
11 shall ensure that the website required under subsection (a)
12 includes the following:

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

15 (A) A citation to the statute or conference
16 report requiring the report.

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

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

- 1 (i) The title of the report.
- 2 (ii) The reporting Federal agency.
- 3 (iii) The date of publication.
- 4 (iv) Each congressional committee re-
- 5 ceiving the report, if applicable.
- 6 (v) Subject tags.
- 7 (vi) The serial number, Super-
- 8 intendent of Documents number, or other
- 9 identification number for the report, if ap-
- 10 plicable.
- 11 (vii) The statute or conference report
- 12 requiring the report.
- 13 (viii) Key words.
- 14 (ix) Full text search.
- 15 (x) Any other relevant information
- 16 specified by the Public Printer.
- 17 (D) The time and date when the report
- 18 was required to be submitted, and when the re-
- 19 port was submitted, to the website.
- 20 (E) Access to the report not later than 30
- 21 calendar days after its submission to Congress.
- 22 (F) To the extent practicable, a permanent
- 23 means of accessing the report electronically.

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

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

8 (4) A list form for all congressionally mandated
9 reports that can be searched, sorted, and
10 downloaded by—

11 (A) reports submitted within the required
12 time;

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

16 (C) reports not submitted.

17 (c) FREE ACCESS.—The Public Printer may not
18 charge a fee, require registration, or impose any other lim-
19 itation in exchange for access to the website required
20 under subsection (a).

21 (d) UPGRADE CAPABILITY.—The website required
22 under subsection (a) shall be enhanced and updated as
23 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 Pub-
16 lic Printer the information required under subparagraphs
17 (A) through (D) of section 2(b)(1) with respect to each
18 congressionally mandated report published pursuant to
19 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 Public Printer, shall issue guidance to agencies on the
24 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO REQUIREMENTS TO SUBMIT RE-**
2 **PORTS TO CONGRESS.**

3 (a) COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENT
4 TO SUBMIT REPORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, a Federal agency is deemed to have complied
6 with a statutory requirement to submit a report to Con-
7 gress if the agency completes each of the following, with
8 respect to such report:

9 (1) Publishes a complete and unredacted copy
10 on the website required under section 2(a).

11 (2) Notifies the Clerk of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and each
13 congressional committee to which a report must be
14 submitted of the report's availability on the website.

15 (b) REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS.—A report
16 submitted to be published to the website required under
17 section 2(a) may only be changed or removed, with the
18 exception of technical changes, by the Federal agency with
19 the express, written consent of each congressional com-
20 mittee to which the report must be submitted.

21 **SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**
22 **ACT.**

23 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the
24 disclosure of information or records that are exempt from
25 public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United
26 States Code. If any information in a congressionally man-

1 dated report may not be publicly released under section
2 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Federal agency
3 concerned shall redact from the report submitted to be
4 published on the website established under section 2 only
5 such information, shall indicate where such redactions
6 were made in the report, and shall identify the exemption
7 under which each such redaction is made.

8 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.—

11 The term “congressionally mandated report” means
12 a report that is required to be submitted to either
13 House of Congress or any committee of Congress by
14 statute or by a conference report that accompanies
15 legislation enacted into law.

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

20 **SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION.**

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

1 or after the date occurring one year after such date of
2 enactment.

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