

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1381

To amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to improve access to information in the legislative and executive branches of the Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. SPEIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, House Administration, the Judiciary, Ethics, and Ways and Means, 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 the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to improve access to information in the legislative and executive branches of the Government, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Transparency in Gov-
3 ernment Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

5 The table of contents is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

- Sec. 101. Greater disclosure and electronic filing of personal financial information.
- Sec. 102. Greater disclosure of travel reports.
- Sec. 103. Greater disclosure of gift reports.
- Sec. 104. Greater disclosure of earmarks.
- Sec. 105. Online posting of disbursements from Members’ Representational Allowance.
- Sec. 106. GAO study and report on effects of written requests by Members of Congress for funding of projects.

TITLE II—ENHANCING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE WORK OF
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, LEGISLATION, AND VOTES

- Sec. 201. Increased transparency of committee work.
- Sec. 202. Increased transparency of committee schedules through the Clerk.
- Sec. 203. Increased transparency of recorded votes.
- Sec. 204. Electronic format.
- Sec. 205. Congressional data task force.
- Sec. 206. Use of data standards by congressional support offices.

TITLE III—ENHANCING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONAL
RESEARCH SERVICE

- Sec. 301. Short title; findings.
- Sec. 302. Availability of certain Congressional Research Service information.
- Sec. 303. Other methods of public access.
- Sec. 304. Definitions.
- Sec. 305. Effective date.

TITLE IV—LOBBYING DISCLOSURE

- Sec. 401. Short title.
- Sec. 402. Modifications to enforcement.
- Sec. 403. Definition of lobbyist.
- Sec. 404. Expedited online registration of lobbyists; expansion of registrants.
- Sec. 405. Disclosure of political contributions.
- Sec. 406. Identification numbers for lobbyists.
- Sec. 407. Ethics training for lobbyists.
- Sec. 408. Estimates based on tax reporting system.
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TITLE V—TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING

- Sec. 501. Improving application programming interface and website data elements.
- Sec. 502. Improving data quality.
- Sec. 503. Requirements relating to reporting of award data.
- Sec. 504. Recipient performance transparency.
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- Sec. 506. Federal contractor compliance.
- Sec. 507. Improving access to information disclosed on lobbying activities.

TITLE VI—EXECUTIVE BRANCH TRANSPARENCY

- Sec. 601. Requirement for disclosure of Federal sponsorship of all Federal advertising or other communications.
- Sec. 602. Improving access to influential executive branch official's visitor access records.
- Sec. 603. Improving access to budget justifications by the Office of Management and Budget.
- Sec. 604. Improving rulemaking disclosure for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.
- Sec. 605. Improving E-filing data collection and distribution for non-profits.
- Sec. 606. Improving ease of online access to registration information from agents of foreign principals.
- Sec. 607. Agency defined.
- Sec. 608. Government-Wide entity identifier.

TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

- Sec. 701. Digital access to completed responses to the Freedom of Information Act.
- Sec. 702. Explanation required for creation of exemption in the Freedom of Information Act.
- Sec. 703. FOIAonline for agencies.
- Sec. 704. Agency defined.

TITLE VIII—IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY WITHIN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Sec. 801. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.
- Sec. 802. Audio recording of Supreme Court proceedings.
- Sec. 803. Availability on the Internet of financial disclosure reports of judicial officers.
- Sec. 804. GAO audit of PACER.

TITLE IX—ENFORCEMENT

- Sec. 901. Audits by the Government Accountability Office.

1 **TITLE I—IMPROVING ACCESS TO**
2 **INFORMATION ABOUT MEM-**
3 **BERS OF CONGRESS AND**
4 **CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES**

5 **SEC. 101. GREATER DISCLOSURE AND ELECTRONIC FILING**
6 **OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION.**

7 (a) **ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIRE-**
8 **MENTS.**—(1) Section 102(a)(1)(B) of the Ethics in Gov-
9 ernment Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 102(a)(1)(B)) is
10 amended in clause (iv) by striking “\$15,000” and insert-
11 ing “\$25,000” and by striking clauses (v) through (ix) and
12 inserting the following new clauses:

13 “(v) greater than \$25,000 but not
14 more than \$100,000, rounded to the near-
15 est \$10,000,

16 “(vi) greater than \$100,000 but not
17 more than \$1,000,000, rounded to the
18 nearest \$100,000, or

19 “(vii) greater than \$1,000,000, round-
20 ed to the nearest \$1,000,000.”.

21 (2) Section 102(d)(1) of such Act (5 U.S.C. App.
22 102(d)(1)) is amended by striking “(3), (4), (5), and (8)”
23 and inserting “(5) and (8)”.

24 (3) Section 102(d) of such Act (5 U.S.C. App.
25 102(d)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (2) as

1 paragraph (3) and by inserting after paragraph (1) the
2 following new paragraph:

3 “(3) The categories for reporting the amount or value
4 of the items covered in paragraphs (3) or (4) of subsection
5 (a) are as follows:

6 “(A) Not more than \$15,000.

7 “(B) Greater than \$15,000 but not more than
8 \$25,000.

9 “(C) Greater than \$25,000 but not more than
10 \$100,000, rounded to the nearest \$10,000.

11 “(D) Greater than \$100,000 but not more than
12 \$1,000,000, rounded to the nearest \$100,000.

13 “(E) Greater than \$1,000,000, rounded to the
14 nearest \$1,000,000.”.

15 (b) MORE FREQUENT DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL
16 TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY.—

17 (1) Section 101 of such Act (5 U.S.C. App. 101) is amend-
18 ed by adding at the end the following new subsection:

19 “(j) In addition to any other report required to be
20 filed by a Member of Congress or officer or employee of
21 the Congress, each such individual is required to file a
22 quarterly report on April 30, July 30, October 30, and
23 January 30 of each year covering the preceding calendar
24 quarter if that individual (or the spouse or any dependent
25 child of that individual) purchased, sold, or exchanged any

1 property described in subsection (a)(5) valued at not less
2 than \$250,000 during that calendar quarter. For any such
3 transaction of not less than \$250,000, such report shall
4 contain all of the information required under subsection
5 (a)(5).”.

6 (2)(A) Clause 1 of rule XXVI of the Rules of the
7 House of Representatives is amended by inserting “(a)”
8 after “1.” and by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraphs:

10 “(b) If any report is filed with the Clerk for a
11 calendar quarter pursuant to section 101(i) of the
12 Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Clerk shall
13 compile all such reports sent to the Clerk by Mem-
14 bers and have them printed as a House document,
15 which shall be made available to the public, as soon
16 as practicable.

17 “(c) Each individual required to file a report
18 with the Clerk under title I under the Ethics in Gov-
19 ernment Act of 1978 shall file and maintain such re-
20 port in electronic form.”.

21 (B) Comparable language to be added by the Senate.

22 (c) AVAILABILITY ON THE INTERNET OF REPORTS
23 FILED UNDER THIS TITLE WITH THE CLERK OF THE
24 HOUSE OR THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.—Section
25 103 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C.

1 App. 103) is amended by adding at the end the following
2 new subsection:

3 “(m) The Clerk of the House of Representatives and
4 the Secretary of the Senate shall each make available any
5 report filed with them under this title (whether the report
6 is filed in paper or electronic form) within 48 hours of
7 the applicable submission deadline on the website of the
8 Clerk or the Secretary, as applicable, in a searchable, sort-
9 able, downloadable, machine-readable format.”.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall apply to reports filed for calendar years
12 or calendar quarters beginning after the date of enactment
13 of this Act.

14 **SEC. 102. GREATER DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL REPORTS.**

15 (a) FOREIGN TRAVEL.—Clause 8(b)(3) of rule X of
16 the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by
17 adding at the end the following new sentence: “Within 48
18 hours after any such report is filed with the chair of a
19 committee, the chair shall post the report on the Internet
20 site of the committee in a searchable, sortable,
21 downloadable, machine-readable format.”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply to travel commencing after the
24 date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 103. GREATER DISCLOSURE OF GIFT REPORTS.**

2 (a) REQUIRING CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO POST RE-
3 PORTS ON INTERNET NOT LATER THAN 48 HOURS
4 AFTER RECEIPT.—(1) Clause 5(b)(5) of rule XXV of the
5 Rules of the House of Representatives is amended—

6 (A) by striking “shall make available” and
7 inserting “shall post on the public Internet site
8 of the Clerk and otherwise make available”; and

9 (B) by striking “as possible” and inserting
10 the following: “as possible, but in no event later
11 than 48 hours,”.

12 (2) Comparable language to be added by the Senate.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
14 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports filed on
15 or after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

16 **SEC. 104. GREATER DISCLOSURE OF EARMARKS.**

17 (a) ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURE BY MEMBERS.—(1)
18 Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives
19 is amended by redesignating clause 18 as clause 19 and
20 by inserting after clause 17 the following:

21 “18. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
22 who requests a congressional earmark, a limited tax ben-
23 efit, or a limited tariff benefit shall, within 24 hours after
24 making such request—

25 “(1) post on his or her public website for the
26 remainder of the Congress the following—

1 “(A) the name and address of the intended
2 recipient;

3 “(B) whether the intended recipient is a
4 for-profit or not-for-profit entity;

5 “(C) the requested amount (only in the
6 case of congressional earmarks); and

7 “(D) an explanation of the request, includ-
8 ing the purpose, and why it is a valuable use
9 of taxpayer funds;

10 “(2) electronically submit to the committee of
11 subject-matter jurisdiction the webpage address
12 where such information is posted;

13 “(3) identify each request as having been sub-
14 mitted to the committee of subject-matter jurisdic-
15 tion; and

16 “(4) display on the homepage of such website a
17 hypertext link that contains the words ‘Earmarks’,
18 ‘Appropriations Requests’, ‘Limited Tax Benefits’,
19 or ‘Limited Tariff Benefits’ and that directs to such
20 webpage address, and maintain that link for at least
21 30 calendar days after the last such request is made
22 during the Congress.”.

23 (2) The last sentence of clause 16 of rule XXIII of
24 the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by

1 striking “and clause 17” and inserting “, clause 17, and
2 clause 18”.

3 (b) ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURE BY COMMITTEES.—
4 Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

6 **“Earmark disclosure websites**

7 “(s)(1) Any committee that accepts any request of
8 a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner for a con-
9 gressional earmark, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tar-
10 iff benefit shall maintain a public website with an earmark
11 disclosure webpage that contains the following for each
12 such request—

13 “(A) the bill name;

14 “(B) the name, State, and district of that indi-
15 vidual;

16 “(C) the name and address of the intended re-
17 cipient;

18 “(D) whether the intended recipient is a for-
19 profit or not-for-profit entity;

20 “(E) the requested amount (only in the case of
21 congressional earmarks);

22 “(F) a brief description; and

23 “(G) the applicable department or agency of the
24 Government, and the account or program (if pro-
25 vided to the committee in the request);

1 and is in a downloadable format that is searchable and
2 sortable by such characteristics.

3 “(2) Any written statement received by a committee
4 under clause 17(a) of rule XXIII shall be posted on the
5 earmark disclosure webpage of the committee.

6 “(3) The earmark disclosure webpage of a committee
7 shall list the names of any Member, Delegate, and Resi-
8 dent Commissioner who requests a congressional earmark,
9 a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit and link
10 directly to their webpage addresses referred to in clause
11 18(2) of rule XXIII.

12 “(4) The earmark disclosure webpage of a committee
13 shall post the information required under subparagraphs
14 (1) through (3) within one week of receipt, and shall main-
15 tain that information on that webpage for the remainder
16 of the Congress.

17 “(5) For purposes of this paragraph, the terms ‘con-
18 gressional earmark’, ‘limited tax benefit’, and ‘limited tar-
19 iff benefit’ shall have the meaning given them in clause
20 9 of rule XXI.”

21 (c) POINT OF ORDER.—Clause 9 of rule XXI of the
22 Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by re-
23 designating paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) as paragraphs (f),
24 (g), and (h), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph
25 (d) the following:

1 “(e) It shall not be in order to consider any bill or
2 joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference
3 report thereon, that carries a congressional earmark, lim-
4 ited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit for which a Mem-
5 ber, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner failed to comply
6 with any applicable requirement of clause 18 of rule
7 XXIII.”.

8 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
9 this section shall apply to requests for congressional ear-
10 marks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits
11 made after the date this resolution is agreed to.

12 (e) CENTRALIZED DATABASE FOR EARMARKS, LIM-
13 ITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS.—

14 (1) The Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Sec-
15 retary of the Senate, and the chairs of the Committee on
16 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the
17 Senate shall collaborate to create one centralized database
18 where all requests for earmark, limited tax benefits, and
19 limited tariff benefits are available on the Internet in a
20 searchable, sortable, downloadable format to the public.
21 The data available to the public for each earmark should
22 include—

23 (A) an identification of the bill into which the
24 earmark is to be inserted;

1 (B) the name, State, and district of the Mem-
2 ber of Congress requesting the earmark;

3 (C) the name and address of the intended re-
4 cipient;

5 (D) whether the intended recipient is a for-prof-
6 it or not-for-profit entity;

7 (E) the requested amount (only in the case of
8 congressional earmarks);

9 (F) a brief description of the earmark; and

10 (G) the applicable department or agency of the
11 Government, and the account or program (if pro-
12 vided to the committee in the request).

13 (2) The centralized database for earmarks referred
14 to in paragraph (1) shall be implemented within six
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 105. ONLINE POSTING OF DISBURSEMENTS FROM**
17 **MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOW-**
18 **ANCE.**

19 (a) REQUIRING POSTING.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each session
21 of a Congress (beginning with the second session of
22 the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress)—

23 (A) the Chief Administrative Officer of the
24 House of Representatives shall post on the offi-
25 cial public Internet site of the House of Rep-

1 representatives a machine-readable statement
2 showing each disbursement made from the
3 Members' Representational Allowance during
4 that session, and include as part of the state-
5 ment hyperlinks to information on the amount
6 of such disbursements which are attributable to
7 each specific Member of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives; and

9 (B) except as provided in paragraph (2),
10 each Member of the House of Representatives
11 shall include on the Member's official public
12 Internet site a hyperlink to the information pro-
13 vided on the House of Representatives site
14 under subparagraph (A) with respect to the dis-
15 bursements made by the Member.

16 (2) EXCEPTION FOR FORMER MEMBERS.—

17 Paragraph (1)(B) does not apply to any individual
18 who is not a Member of the House of Representa-
19 tives at the time the Chief Administrative Officer
20 posts the statement described in paragraph (1)(A).

21 (b) SOURCE OF INFORMATION.—The information
22 provided on the House of Representatives site under sub-
23 section (a)(1) shall be based on the reports of disburse-
24 ments for the operations of the House of Representatives
25 which are submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer

1 under section 106 of the House of Representatives Admin-
2 istrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C.
3 104b).

4 (c) DEADLINES.—

5 (1) CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.—The
6 Chief Administrative Officer shall post the informa-
7 tion required under subsection (a)(1) with respect to
8 a session of Congress not later than 30 days after
9 the publication of the final report of disbursements
10 for the operations of the House of Representatives
11 (as described in subsection (b)) for that session.

12 (2) MEMBERS.—Each Member of the House of
13 Representatives shall meet the requirements of sub-
14 section (a)(2) not later than 5 days after the Chief
15 Administrative Officer posts the information re-
16 quired under subsection (a)(1) with respect to a ses-
17 sion of Congress.

18 (d) MEMBER DEFINED.—In this section, a “Member
19 of the House of Representatives” includes a Delegate or
20 Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

21 **SEC. 106. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF WRIT-**
22 **TEN REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
23 **FOR FUNDING OF PROJECTS.**

24 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct
25 a study of the effect of written requests to carry out and

1 provide funding for projects and activities which are sub-
2 mitted to offices of the executive branch by Members of
3 Congress on the decisions made by such offices regarding
4 the funding of those projects and activities.

5 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
7 submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
8 subsection (a).

9 **TITLE II—ENHANCING PUBLIC**
10 **ACCESS TO THE WORK OF**
11 **CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
12 **TEES, LEGISLATION, AND**
13 **VOTES**

14 **SEC. 201. INCREASED TRANSPARENCY OF COMMITTEE**
15 **WORK.**

16 (a) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Clause
17 1 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives
18 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
19 graph:

20 “(e)(1) Each committee shall post on its Internet
21 website the public hearings and markup schedules of the
22 committee and each of its subcommittees at the same time
23 that information is made available to members of the com-
24 mittee.

1 “(2) For each hearing and markup for which infor-
2 mation is posted under subparagraph (1), the committee
3 shall post on its Internet website within 45 days the fol-
4 lowing: the topic, related legislation, testimony of wit-
5 nesses, opening statements of the chair and ranking mi-
6 nority member, transcripts, and audio and video record-
7 ings.

8 “(3) Within 24 hours after a committee or sub-
9 committee orders any bill or resolution to be reported, the
10 committee or subcommittee, as applicable, shall post on
11 its Internet website all amendments that were agreed to,
12 except for technical and conforming changes authorized by
13 the committee or subcommittee.”.

14 (b) IN THE SENATE.—Comparable language to be
15 added by the Senate.

16 **SEC. 202. INCREASED TRANSPARENCY OF COMMITTEE**
17 **SCHEDULES THROUGH THE CLERK.**

18 Clause 2 of rule II of the Rules of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
20 new paragraph:

21 “(1) The House Committees shall provide to the
22 Clerk, in a structured data format, a complete list
23 of all public hearing and markup schedules of com-
24 mittees and subcommittees as soon as publically
25 available; and the Clerk shall post this information

1 on its Web site, including links to committee
2 websites.”.

3 **SEC. 203. INCREASED TRANSPARENCY OF RECORDED**
4 **VOTES.**

5 (a) **ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE**
6 **HOUSE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.**—The
7 Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary
8 of the Senate shall post on the public Internet site of the
9 Office of the Clerk or of the Secretary, respectively, a
10 record, organized by the name of each Member or Senator,
11 in a structured data format, of the recorded votes of that
12 Member or Senator, including the roll, date, issue, ques-
13 tion, result, and title or description of the vote, and any
14 cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office related
15 to the vote.

16 (b) **WEB LINK.**—Each Member shall provide a link
17 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives of a list of
18 recorded votes from that Member’s website, and each Sen-
19 ator shall provide a link to the Secretary of the Senate
20 of a list of recorded votes from that Senator’s website.

21 (c) **DEFINITION.**—As used in this section, the term
22 “Member” means a Representative in Congress, a delegate
23 to Congress, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto
24 Rico.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to
2 recorded votes occurring after the date of enactment of
3 this Act.

4 **SEC. 204. ELECTRONIC FORMAT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 1 of the United
6 States Code is amended by adding, after section 107, the
7 following new section:

8 **“§ 107a. Electronic format**

9 “To the extent practicable, all bills, resolutions, or-
10 ders, and votes shall be created, exchanged, and published
11 in searchable electronic formats, consistent with data
12 standards recommended by such advisory bodies as Con-
13 gress may establish.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
15 tions at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 1 of the United
16 States Code is amended by adding after the item relating
17 to section 107 the following new item:

“107a. Electronic format.”.

18 **SEC. 205. CONGRESSIONAL DATA TASK FORCE.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Clerk of the House and
20 the Secretary of the Senate shall establish an advisory
21 Congressional Data Task Force to recommend data stand-
22 ards for the creation, exchange, and publication of con-
23 gressional information.

24 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Congressional Data Task
25 Force shall be composed of staff representatives of the

1 Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Li-
2 brary of Congress, the Congressional Research Service,
3 the Government Publishing Office, the Center for Legisla-
4 tive Archives, such other congressional offices and agen-
5 cies may be necessary, and representatives of the public.

6 (c) DATA STANDARDS.—All data standards rec-
7 ommended by the Congressional Data Task Force shall
8 be nonproprietary and machine-readable.

9 (d) SCOPE.—The Congressional Data Task Force
10 shall recommend data standards for congressional infor-
11 mation, including all bills, amendments, Acts, reports,
12 committee hearing/meeting notices, the United States
13 Code, and other legislative documents and records.

14 **SEC. 206. USE OF DATA STANDARDS BY CONGRESSIONAL**
15 **SUPPORT OFFICES.**

16 All congressional support offices shall, to the extent
17 practicable, use the data standards recommended by the
18 Congressional Data Task Force for the congressional in-
19 formation that they create, exchange, and/or publish.

20 **TITLE III—ENHANCING PUBLIC**
21 **ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONAL**
22 **RESEARCH SERVICE**

23 **SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

24 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the
25 “Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports

1 Resolution of 2015” or the “Congressional Research Serv-
2 ice Electronic Accessibility Resolution of 2015”.

3 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The Congressional Research Service, a spe-
5 cial reference unit within the Library of Congress,
6 offers invaluable research and analysis to Members
7 of Congress on all current and emerging issues of
8 national policy.

9 (2) The Congressional Research Service staff of
10 approximately 700 employees, including lawyers,
11 economists, reference librarians, and social, natural,
12 and physical scientists, are governed by require-
13 ments for accuracy, objectivity, balance, and non-
14 partisanship.

15 (3) The Congressional Research Service has a
16 responsibility to ensure that Members of Congress
17 have available the best possible information and
18 analysis on which to base the policy decisions the
19 American people have elected them to make.

20 (4) It is often burdensome, difficult, and time-
21 consuming for citizens to obtain access to objective
22 and nonpartisan policy analysis on issues affecting
23 their interests.

24 (5) It will enhance our democracy to provide
25 citizens with access to unbiased and accurate CRS

1 documents on legislation and other critical issues be-
2 fore Congress.

3 (6) Allowing public access to CRS will empower
4 citizens and enable Members of Congress to become
5 even more effective “representatives” of the public’s
6 concerns and goals.

7 **SEC. 302. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL RE-**
8 **SEARCH SERVICE INFORMATION.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DATA-
10 BASE OF INFORMATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Clerk of the House of
12 Representatives, in consultation with the Director of
13 the Congressional Research Service, shall establish
14 and maintain a centralized, searchable, bulk
15 downloadable, electronic database consisting of—

16 (A) all of the information described in
17 paragraph (2) that is available to Members, of-
18 ficers, employees, and offices of the House of
19 Representatives through the Congressional Re-
20 search Service website; and

21 (B) in accordance with subsection (b), an
22 index of the information described in subpara-
23 graph (A).

24 (2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The informa-
25 tion described in this paragraph is as follows:

1 (A) Congressional Research Service Issue
2 Briefs.

3 (B) Congressional Research Service Re-
4 ports.

5 (C) Congressional Research Service Au-
6 thorization of Appropriations Products and Ap-
7 propriations Products.

8 (D) Materials intended or available for
9 general congressional distribution that are the
10 same or substantially similar in content to CRS
11 Reports, Issue Briefs, and Appropriations Prod-
12 ucts.

13 (3) SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR MATERIALS IN-
14 CLUDED.—With respect to each issue brief, product,
15 or report included in the database under this sub-
16 section, the Clerk shall include—

17 (A) the name and identification number;

18 (B) the dates of initial release and updates
19 (if any); and

20 (C) the Congressional Research Service di-
21 vision or divisions that were responsible for its
22 production.

23 (4) UPDATES.—The Clerk, in consultation with
24 the Director, shall ensure that the information in
25 the database under this subsection is updated auto-

1 matically and electronically to reflect the availability
2 of new information and updates to existing informa-
3 tion described in paragraph (2).

4 (5) INITIAL INFORMATION.—The initial estab-
5 lishment of the database under this subsection shall
6 include all of the contents described in paragraph
7 (1) as of the date on which this resolution is agreed
8 to.

9 (b) INDEX OF DATABASE INFORMATION.—In addi-
10 tion to the database under subsection (a), the Clerk, in
11 consultation with the Director, shall establish and main-
12 tain contemporaneously a website containing a searchable,
13 sortable index of all of the information in the database
14 in both human-readable and machine-readable formats
15 (such as XML) that includes for each issue brief, product,
16 or report in the database—

17 (1) the name and identification number;

18 (2) the dates of initial release and updates (if
19 any); and

20 (3) the Congressional Research Service division
21 or divisions that were responsible for its production.

22 (c) LIMITATIONS.—

23 (1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsections
24 (a) and (b) do not apply to—

1 (A) any information that is confidential, as
2 determined by—

3 (i) the Director, or

4 (ii) the head of a Federal department
5 or agency that provided the information to
6 the Congressional Research Service; or

7 (B) any document that—

8 (i) is the product of a confidential re-
9 search request made by a Member, officer,
10 employee, or office of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives;

12 (ii) has not been distributed to any in-
13 dividual or office other than the individual
14 or office making the request; and

15 (iii) is not intended for distribution to
16 any person other than the individual or of-
17 fice making the request.

18 (2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying
19 out this section, the Clerk, on the basis of informa-
20 tion provided by the Director, may—

21 (A) remove from the information included
22 in the database (including from the issue brief,
23 product, or report itself) the name and contact
24 information regarding an employee of the Con-
25 gressional Research Service;

1 (B) remove from the information included
2 in the database (including from the issue brief,
3 product, or report itself) any material for which
4 the Director determines that including the in-
5 formation on the database may infringe the
6 copyright of a work protected under title 17,
7 United States Code; and

8 (C) make any changes in the information
9 included in the database (including from the
10 issue brief, product, or report itself) that the
11 Director determines necessary to ensure that
12 the information is accurate and current, except
13 that if the Clerk makes any such change with
14 respect to any material in the database, the
15 Clerk shall indicate in the database (with such
16 notation as the Clerk considers appropriate)
17 that more current information is available with
18 respect to the material than the information
19 provided in the database.

20 (3) METHOD OF REDACTION.—The Clerk shall
21 carry out any redaction under paragraph (2)(C) in
22 a manner which removes the least amount of mate-
23 rial necessary to carry out the purposes of the redac-
24 tion.

1 (4) ASSISTANCE FROM DIRECTOR FOR AUTO-
2 MATIC REDACTION.—The Clerk shall consult with
3 the Director to ensure the availability and implemen-
4 tation of such technology as may be necessary to fa-
5 cilitate the automatic redaction of information under
6 this subsection.

7 (d) FURNISHING OF NECESSARY INFORMATION.—
8 The Clerk shall consult with the Director to ensure that
9 the Clerk is provided with all of the information necessary
10 to carry out this section in such format as the Clerk con-
11 siders appropriate.

12 **SEC. 303. OTHER METHODS OF PUBLIC ACCESS.**

13 (a) ACCESS THROUGH WEBSITES OF MEMBERS AND
14 COMMITTEES.—Each official public website of a Member
15 of the House of Representatives, a committee of the House
16 of Representatives, or a joint committee of the Congress
17 shall permit members of the public to use the website to
18 obtain the information contained in the database estab-
19 lished under section 302, in the same manner and to the
20 same extent as Members, officers, employees, and offices
21 of the House of Representatives may obtain such informa-
22 tion through the Congressional Research Service website.

23 (b) REGULATIONS.—Subsection (a) shall be carried
24 out in accordance with regulations promulgated by the

1 Committee on House Administration of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives.

3 **SEC. 304. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title—

5 (1) the term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the
6 House of Representatives;

7 (2) the term “Director” means the Director of
8 the Congressional Research Service; and

9 (3) the term “Member of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Com-
11 missioner to the Congress.

12 **SEC. 305. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 This title shall take effect upon the expiration of the
14 6-month period which begins on the date of the enactment
15 of this Act, without regard to whether the regulations de-
16 scribed in section 303(b) or any other regulations have
17 been promulgated prior to the expiration of such period.

18 **TITLE IV—LOBBYING**

19 **DISCLOSURE**

20 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

21 This title may be cited as the “Lobbyist Disclosure
22 Enhancement Act”.

23 **SEC. 402. MODIFICATIONS TO ENFORCEMENT.**

24 (a) LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT TASK FORCE.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General
2 shall establish the Lobbying Disclosure Act Enforce-
3 ment Task Force (in this subsection referred to as
4 the “Task Force”).

5 (2) FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force—

6 (A) shall have primary responsibility for
7 investigating and prosecuting each case referred
8 to the Attorney General under section 6(a)(8)
9 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2
10 U.S.C. 1605(a)(8));

11 (B) shall collect and disseminate informa-
12 tion with respect to the enforcement of the Lob-
13 bying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et
14 seq.);

15 (C) shall audit, at a minimum on an an-
16 nual basis, and as frequently as deemed nec-
17 essary by the Task Force, the extent of compli-
18 ance or noncompliance with the requirements of
19 the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 by lobby-
20 ists, lobbying firms, and registrants under that
21 Act through a random sampling of lobbying
22 registrations and reports filed under that Act
23 during each calendar year; and

24 (D) shall establish, publicize, and operate a
25 toll-free telephone number to serve as a hotline

1 for members of the public to report noncompli-
2 ance with lobbyist disclosure requirements
3 under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995,
4 and shall develop a mechanism to allow mem-
5 bers of the public to report such noncompliance
6 online.

7 (b) REFERRAL OF CASES TO THE ATTORNEY GEN-
8 ERAL.—Section 6(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
9 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1605(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “United
11 States Attorney for the District of Columbia” and
12 inserting “Attorney General”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (11), by striking “United
14 States Attorney for the District of Columbia” and
15 inserting “Attorney General”.

16 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED ENFORCE-
17 MENT.—The Attorney General may make recommenda-
18 tions to Congress with respect to—

19 (1) the enforcement of and compliance with the
20 Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; and

21 (2) the need for resources available for the en-
22 hanced enforcement of the Lobbying Disclosure Act
23 of 1995.

24 (d) INFORMATION IN ENFORCEMENT REPORTS.—
25 Section 6(b)(1) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995

1 (2 U.S.C. 1605(b)(1)) is amended by striking “by case”
2 and all that follows through “public record” and inserting
3 “by case and name of the individual lobbyists or lobbying
4 firms involved, any sentences imposed”.

5 **SEC. 403. DEFINITION OF LOBBYIST.**

6 Section 3(10) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
7 (2 U.S.C. 1602(10)) is amended by striking “, other than
8 an individual” and all that follows through “period”.

9 **SEC. 404. EXPEDITED ONLINE REGISTRATION OF LOBBY-**
10 **ISTS; EXPANSION OF REGISTRANTS.**

11 Section 4(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
12 (2 U.S.C. 1603(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1)—

14 (A) by striking “45 days” and inserting
15 “10 days”;

16 (B) by striking “, or on the first business
17 day after such 45th day if such 45th day is not
18 a business day,” and inserting “, or on the first
19 business day occurring after such 10th day if
20 such 10th day does not occur on a business
21 day,”; and

22 (C) by inserting “online” after “shall reg-
23 ister”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “Any organization” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
4 graph (B), any organization”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(B) THRESHOLD FOR CERTAIN ORGANI-
7 ZATIONS.—In the case of an organization whose
8 employees who are lobbyists engage in lobbying
9 activities only on behalf of the organization, the
10 organization is required to register under this
11 subsection only if the lobbying activities of each
12 such employee includes or is expected to include
13 more than one lobbying contact.”.

14 **SEC. 405. DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**

15 Section 5(d)(1) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
16 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1604(d)(1)) is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
18 by striking “30 days after” and all that follows
19 through “30th day is not” and inserting “20 days
20 after the end of the quarterly period beginning on
21 the first day of January, April, July, and October of
22 each year, or on the first business day after such
23 20th day if such 20th day is not”; and

24 (2) by striking “semiannual period” each place
25 it appears and inserting “quarterly period”.

1 **SEC. 406. IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS FOR LOBBYISTS.**

2 Section 6(a)(3) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
3 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1605(a)(3)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
5 graph (A);

6 (2) by adding “and” after the semicolon the
7 end of subparagraph (B); and

8 (3) by adding after subparagraph (B) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(C) a system that assigns an identifica-
11 tion number for each lobbyist for whom a reg-
12 istration or report is filed under this Act;”.

13 **SEC. 407. ETHICS TRAINING FOR LOBBYISTS.**

14 (a) **REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING.**—Any individual
15 who is a lobbyist registered or required to register under
16 section 4 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2
17 U.S.C. 1603) shall—

18 (1) complete ethics training described in sub-
19 section (b)—

20 (A) not later than 6 months after the indi-
21 vidual is first employed or retained for services
22 that include one or more lobbying contacts; and

23 (B) at least once in each 5-year period
24 during which the individual is registered or re-
25 quired to register under section 4; and

1 (2) submit to the Clerk of the House of Rep-
2 representatives and the Secretary of the Senate certifi-
3 cation of the training completed under paragraph
4 (1).

5 (b) QUALIFIED TRAINING.—The Ethics Committee
6 of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee
7 on Ethics of the Senate shall jointly—

8 (1) determine the curriculum and certification
9 requirements for the ethics training for individuals
10 described in subsection (a);

11 (2) approve those educational institutions, pro-
12 fessional associations, or other persons who are
13 qualified to provide such ethics training;

14 (3) determine the maximum fee that may be
15 charged for the ethics training; and

16 (4) provide oversight of the ethics training pro-
17 gram established under this section in order to de-
18 termine the quality of instruction in, and the admin-
19 istration of, the training program.

20 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLERK AND SEC-
21 RETARY.—The Clerk of the House of Representatives and
22 the Secretary of the Senate shall—

23 (1) collect and review for completion and accu-
24 racy the certifications of ethics training submitted
25 under subsection (a)(2); and

1 (2) post on the websites of the Clerk and the
2 Secretary, with respect to each individual required to
3 complete ethics training under this section—

4 (A) whether the individual has complied
5 with such requirement; and

6 (B) the certifications submitted by the in-
7 dividual under subsection (a)(2).

8 **SEC. 408. ESTIMATES BASED ON TAX REPORTING SYSTEM.**

9 Section 15 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
10 (2 U.S.C. 1610) is repealed.

11 **SEC. 409. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 (a) SECTION 402.—Section 402 and the amendments
13 made by that section take effect upon the expiration of
14 the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment
15 of this Act.

16 (b) SECTIONS 403, 404, AND 405.—The amendments
17 made by sections 403, 404, and 405 shall take effect on
18 the first day of the first quarterly period described in sec-
19 tion 5(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2
20 U.S.C. 1604(a)) that begins after the end of the 90-day
21 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (c) SECTION 406.—The amendments made by section
23 406 shall apply to any registration or report that is filed
24 under section 4 or 5 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
25 1995—

1 (1) on or after the 90th day after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act; or

3 (2) before such 90th day, if such registration or
4 report is, as of such 90th day, being retained under
5 section 6(a)(5) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
6 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1605(a)(5)).

7 (d) SECTION 407.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 407 shall take effect
9 upon the expiration of the 1-year period beginning
10 on the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (2) CURRENT LOBBYISTS.—In the case of indi-
12 viduals who are registered under section 4 of the
13 Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603) as
14 of the effective date under paragraph (1), the ethics
15 training required under section 407(a)(1) shall be
16 completed not later than the end of the 6-month pe-
17 riod beginning on the effective date under paragraph
18 (1) of this subsection, in lieu of the date specified
19 in section 407(a)(1).

1 **TITLE V—TRANSPARENCY IN**
2 **FEDERAL CONTRACTING**

3 **SEC. 501. IMPROVING APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTER-**
4 **FACE AND WEBSITE DATA ELEMENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Federal Funding
6 Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law
7 109–282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by striking
10 “and delivery orders” and inserting “lease
11 agreements and assignments, and delivery or-
12 ders”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
15 “and” after the semicolon;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
17 the period and inserting “; and”; and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing new subparagraph:

20 “(E) programmatically search and access
21 all data in a serialized machine readable format
22 (such as XML) via a web-services application
23 programming interface.”; and

24 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
25 following new paragraph:

1 “(4) CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING
2 ITEM.—The term ‘congressionally directed spending
3 item’ means a provision or report language included
4 primarily at the request of a Member of Congress
5 providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific
6 amount of discretionary budget authority, credit au-
7 thority, or other spending authority for a contract,
8 loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other
9 expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a
10 specific State, locality, or congressional district,
11 other than through a statutory or administrative for-
12 mula-driven or competitive award process.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
15 period at the end and inserting semicolon;

16 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as
17 subparagraph (J); and

18 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
19 the following new subparagraphs:

20 “(G) to the extent possible, the Federal
21 agency, including the bureau, office, or subdivi-
22 sion, that authorized the Federal award;

23 “(H) after January 1, 2016, for all con-
24 tracts, subcontracts, purchase orders, task or-

1 ders, lease agreements and assignments, and
2 delivery orders—

3 “(i) information about the extent of
4 competition in making the award, includ-
5 ing the number of bids or proposals deter-
6 mined to be responsive during the competi-
7 tive process, and if the award was not com-
8 peted, the legal authority and specific ra-
9 tionale for making the award without full
10 and open competition;

11 “(ii) the full amount of money that is
12 awarded under a contract or, in the case of
13 lease agreements or assignments, the
14 amount paid to the Government, and the
15 full amount of any options to expand or
16 extend under a contract;

17 “(iii) the amount of the profit incen-
18 tive, such as award fees;

19 “(iv) the type of contract, such as
20 fixed price, cost plus pricing, labor hour
21 contracts, and time and materials con-
22 tracts;

23 “(v) a permanent link to the original
24 solicitation or notice and the solicitation
25 ID;

1 “(vi) an indication if the contract is
2 the result of legislative mandates, set-
3 asides, preference program requirements,
4 or other criteria, and whether the contract
5 is multi-year, consolidated, or performance
6 based; and

7 “(vii) an indication if the contract is
8 a congressionally directed spending item;

9 “(I) after January 1, 2016, for all grants,
10 subgrants, loans, awards, cooperative agree-
11 ments, and other forms of financial assistance,
12 an indication if the funding is a congressionally
13 directed spending item; and”.

14 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Except as otherwise pro-
15 vided, the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be
16 implemented not later than 6 months after the date of
17 the enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 502. IMPROVING DATA QUALITY.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Funding Account-
20 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–
21 282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as amended by section 501,
22 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 5. IMPROVING DATA QUALITY.**

24 “(a) **INSPECTOR GENERAL DATA AUDIT.**—Each In-
25 specter General shall annually audit for the previous fiscal

1 year the data used on the website created by this Act for
2 the relevant Federal agency of the Inspector General, in
3 compliance with generally accepted Government auditing
4 standards, and submit a report on such audit to the Direc-
5 tor of the Office of Management and Budget that includes
6 at least the following:

7 “(1) A review of data used for the website to
8 verify accuracy of the data and assess the process
9 used for improving data quality.

10 “(2) A review of a statistically representative
11 sample of Federal awards to determine whether Fed-
12 eral agencies have appropriate measures in place to
13 review data submissions under this Act for accuracy
14 and completeness.

15 “(3) An identification and report on new stand-
16 ards that Inspector General recommends for imple-
17 mentation by agencies to improve data quality.

18 “(b) OMB REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each
19 year, the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
20 et shall make each report submitted under subsection (a)
21 for the previous fiscal year available to the public, includ-
22 ing a review of the findings of the audit and recommenda-
23 tions to improve data quality, through the website created
24 by this Act.”.

1 **SEC. 503. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO REPORTING OF**
2 **AWARD DATA.**

3 (a) REVISION OF GUIDANCE.—The Director of the
4 Office of Management and Budget shall revise the Office’s
5 guidance to Federal agencies on reporting Federal awards
6 to clarify—

7 (1) the requirement that award titles describe
8 the award’s purpose; and

9 (2) requirements for validating and docu-
10 menting agency award data submitted by Federal
11 agencies.

12 (b) INCLUSION OF CITY INFORMATION.—The Direc-
13 tor of the Office of Management and Budget shall include
14 information on the city where work is performed in the
15 Office’s public reporting of the completeness of agency
16 data submissions.

17 **SEC. 504. RECIPIENT PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Funding Account-
19 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–
20 282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as amended by sections 501
21 and 502, is further amended by adding at the end the
22 following:

23 **“SEC. 6. RECIPIENT PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY AND**
24 **PAST PERFORMANCE.**

25 “The Director of the Office of Management and
26 Budget shall ensure that the unique identifier required in

1 section 2(b)(1)(E) that is used to link information about
2 the entity receiving the award on the searchable website
3 is also used to link information about that entity on the
4 Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information Sys-
5 tem.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall be implemented not later than June
8 30, 2015.

9 **SEC. 505. IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL AWARDEE PER-**
10 **FORMANCE AND INTEGRITY INFORMATION**
11 **SYSTEM DATABASE.**

12 (a) REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE IN DATABASE 10
13 YEARS OF INFORMATION ON CERTAIN PERSONS AWARD-
14 ED FEDERAL CONTRACTS OR GRANTS.—Section 872 of
15 the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act
16 for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat.
17 4555) is amended in subsection (c) by striking “5-year”
18 and inserting “10-year”.

19 (b) REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE INFORMATION IN
20 DATABASE REGARDING CERTAIN JUDGMENTS AND SET-
21 TLEMENTS.—Section 872 of such Act is further amended
22 in subsection (c)(1) by adding at the end the following
23 new subparagraphs:

1 “(E) In an administrative proceeding, any
2 administrative judgment that does not contain
3 an explicit finding or acknowledgment of fault.

4 “(F) In a civil proceeding, any settlement
5 that does not contain an explicit finding or ac-
6 knowledgegment of fault.”.

7 **SEC. 506. FEDERAL CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE.**

8 (a) **SELF-REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Subsection
9 (f) of section 2313 of title 41, United States Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 “(f) **SELF-REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—

12 “(1) **CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF SIMPLIFIED AC-**
13 **QUISITION THRESHOLD.**—No funds appropriated or
14 otherwise made available by any Act may be used for
15 any Federal contract for the procurement of prop-
16 erty or services in excess of the simplified acquisition
17 threshold unless the contractor has first made the
18 certifications set forth in section 52.209–5 of the
19 Federal Acquisition Regulation.

20 “(2) **CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$500,000.**—No
21 funds appropriated or otherwise made available by
22 any Act may be used for any Federal contract for
23 the procurement of property or services in excess of
24 \$500,000 unless the contractor—

1 “(A) certifies that the contractor has sub-
2 mitted to the Administrator the information re-
3 quired under subsection (c) and that such infor-
4 mation is current as of the date of such certifi-
5 cation; or

6 “(B) certifies that the contractor has cu-
7 mulative active Federal contracts and grants
8 with a total value of less than \$10,000,000.”.

9 (b) PERIODIC INSPECTION OR REVIEW OF CONTRACT
10 FILES.—Section 2313(e)(2) of such title is amended by
11 adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

12 “(C) PERIODIC INSPECTION OR REVIEW.—
13 The Inspector General of each Federal agency
14 shall periodically—

15 “(i) conduct an inspection or review of
16 the contract files required under subpara-
17 graph (B) to determine if the agency is
18 providing appropriate consideration of the
19 information included in the database cre-
20 ated pursuant to subsection (c); and

21 “(ii) submit a report containing the
22 results of the inspection or review con-
23 ducted under clause (i) to the Committee
24 on Homeland Security and Governmental
25 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee

1 on Oversight and Government Reform of
2 the House of Representatives.”.

3 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Comptroller General of
4 the United States shall annually submit a report to the
5 appropriate congressional committees describing the ex-
6 tent to which suspended or debarred contractors on the
7 Excluded Parties List System—

8 (1) are identified as having received Federal
9 contracts on USAspending.gov; or

10 (2) were granted waivers from Federal agencies
11 from suspension or debarment for purposes of enter-
12 ing into Federal contracts.

13 **SEC. 507. IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION DIS-**
14 **CLOSED ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.**

15 (a) INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR
16 OF GENERAL SERVICES.—Section 1352(b) of title 31,
17 United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “file with that
19 agency” and inserting “file electronically with the
20 Administrator of General Services”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(7) DATABASE REQUIRED.—The Adminis-
24 trator of General Services shall establish and main-
25 tain an online database that is made available to the

1 relevant agency and accessible by the public that
2 contains information disclosed pursuant to this sub-
3 section that is searchable, sortable, machine read-
4 able, and downloadable.”.

5 (b) DEADLINE FOR DATABASE.—Not later than 180
6 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
7 ministrator of General Services shall establish the data-
8 base required by paragraph (7) of section 1352(b) of title
9 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

10 **TITLE VI—EXECUTIVE BRANCH** 11 **TRANSPARENCY**

12 **SEC. 601. REQUIREMENT FOR DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL** 13 **SPONSORSHIP OF ALL FEDERAL ADVER-** 14 **TISING OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided for in sub-
16 section (b), each advertisement or other communication
17 paid for by an agency, either directly or through a contract
18 awarded by the agency, shall include a prominent notice
19 informing the target audience that the advertisement or
20 other communication is paid for by that agency.

21 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The requirement in subsection (a)
22 shall not apply to an advertisement or other communica-
23 tion—

24 (1) that is 200 characters or less; or

1 (2) that is distributed through a short message
2 service.

3 (c) **ADVERTISEMENT OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**
4 **DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “advertisement or
5 other communication” includes—

6 (1) an advertisement disseminated in any form,
7 including print or by any electronic means; and

8 (2) a communication by an individual in any
9 form, including speech, print, or by any electronic
10 means.

11 **SEC. 602. IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFLUENTIAL EXECUTIVE**
12 **BRANCH OFFICIAL’S VISITOR ACCESS**
13 **RECORDS.**

14 (a) **DISCLOSURE OF WHITE HOUSE VISITOR ACCESS**
15 **RECORDS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the Presi-
17 dent shall disclose to the public all White House visitor
18 access records for the previous month that are redacted
19 in accordance with subsection (c).

20 (b) **DISCLOSURE OF AGENCY VISITOR ACCESS**
21 **RECORDS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the head
23 of each agency shall disclose to the public all visitor access
24 records for the previous month for such agency head that
25 are redacted in accordance with subsection (c).

1 (c) INFORMATION NOT DISCLOSED.—The President
2 under subsection (a), and the head of the relevant agency
3 under subsection (b), as the case may be, may determine
4 to not disclose the following information pursuant to this
5 section:

6 (1) Any information—

7 (A) that implicates personal privacy or law
8 enforcement concerns (such as date of birth, so-
9 cial security number, and contact phone num-
10 ber);

11 (B) that implicates the personal safety of
12 White House staff (including daily arrival and
13 departure); or

14 (C) whose release would so threaten na-
15 tional security interests that it outweighs a
16 strong presumption in favor of the public's in-
17 terest in disclosure.

18 (2) For a non-renewable period of up to a year,
19 any information related to purely personal guests of
20 the first and second families), but only if the execu-
21 tive branch's interest in protecting an unfettered
22 consultation conducted in secret strongly outweighs
23 the public's interest in an accountable Government
24 free of corruption and political influence.

1 (3) Any information related to a small group of
2 particularly sensitive meetings (such as visits of po-
3 tential Supreme Court nominees).

4 **SEC. 603. IMPROVING ACCESS TO BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS**
5 **BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDG-**
6 **ET.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the budget for fis-
8 cal year 2017, not later than 24 hours after the date on
9 which the President submits the budget under section
10 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the
11 Office of Management and Budget shall make all budget
12 justifications available online in a searchable, sortable,
13 machine readable, and downloadable format and any elec-
14 tronic version of the budget shall provide a link to each
15 budget justification by the Office of Management and
16 Budget.

17 (b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
18 “budget justifications” refers to the documents an agency
19 submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the
20 House of Representatives and Senate in support of its
21 budget request. The Office of Management and Budget
22 prescribes justification materials, which typically explain
23 changes between the current appropriations and the
24 amounts requested for the next fiscal year and may be

1 referred to in the budget submission of the President
2 under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 604. IMPROVING RULEMAKING DISCLOSURE FOR THE**
4 **OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY**
5 **AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) INCLUSION IN THE RULEMAKING DOCKET OF
7 DOCUMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO THE
8 IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRALIZED REGULATORY RE-
9 VIEW.—As soon as practicable, and not later than 15 days
10 after the conclusion of centralized regulatory review for
11 a draft proposed or draft final rule, the Administrator of
12 the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall in-
13 clude in the rulemaking docket the following:

14 (1) A copy of the draft proposed or draft final
15 rule and supporting analyses submitted to the Office
16 of Information and Regulatory Affairs for review.

17 (2) A copy of the draft proposed or draft final
18 rule that incorporates substantive changes, if any,
19 made to the rule as part of implementing centralized
20 regulatory review.

21 (3) A document describing in a complete, clear,
22 and simple manner all substantive changes made by
23 the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to
24 the draft proposed or draft final rule submitted by
25 the agency to Office for review.

1 (4) A copy of all documents and written com-
2 munications (including all electronic mail and elec-
3 tronic mail file attachments), and a summary of all
4 oral communications (including phone calls, phone
5 conferences, and meetings), exchanged as part of the
6 implementation of the centralized regulatory review
7 between or among any of the following:

8 (A) The agency responsible for the rule.

9 (B) The Office of Information and Regu-
10 latory Affairs.

11 (C) Any other office or entity within the
12 Executive Office of the President.

13 (D) An agency that is not the agency re-
14 sponsible for the rule.

15 (E) An individual who is not employed
16 by—

17 (i) the executive branch of the Federal
18 Government; or

19 (ii) an agency that is not the agency
20 responsible for the rule.

21 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) CENTRALIZED REGULATORY REVIEW.—The
23 term “centralized regulatory review” means the in-
24 stitutional process of Presidential oversight of indi-
25 vidual agency rules governed by Executive Order

1 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735; relating to regulatory
2 planning and review), or any successor to such Exec-
3 utive order.

4 (2) RULE.—The term “rule” has the meaning
5 given that term in section 551 of title 5, United
6 States Code.

7 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed to preempt or displace the disclo-
9 sure requirements under any other provision of law affect-
10 ing administrative procedure, if such requirements are not
11 inconsistent with the requirements of this section.

12 **SEC. 605. IMPROVING E-FILING DATA COLLECTION AND**
13 **DISTRIBUTION FOR NON-PROFITS.**

14 (a) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING.—Section
15 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended
16 by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o) and by
17 inserting after subsection (m) the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(n) MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING.—Any orga-
20 nization required to file a return under this section shall
21 file such return in electronic form, using a nonproprietary
22 machine-readable data format.”.

23 (b) INSPECTION OF ELECTRONICALLY FILED AN-
24 NUAL RETURNS.—Subsection (b) of section 6104 of such
25 Code is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any

1 annual return required to be filed electronically under sec-
2 tion 6033(n) shall be made available by the Secretary to
3 the public, in a nonproprietary machine-readable data for-
4 mat, in a database that is searchable, sortable, and
5 downloadable.”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 606. IMPROVING EASE OF ONLINE ACCESS TO REG-**
10 **ISTRATION INFORMATION FROM AGENTS OF**
11 **FOREIGN PRINCIPALS.**

12 (a) IMPROVING ONLINE ACCESS.—Section 6(d)(1) of
13 the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C.
14 616(d)(1)) is amended by striking “in a searchable, sort-
15 able, and downloadable manner” and inserting “in a for-
16 mat which is directly searchable, sortable, downloadable,
17 and machine-readable”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 subsection (a) shall take effect upon the expiration of the
20 30-day period which begins on the date of the enactment
21 of this Act.

22 **SEC. 607. AGENCY DEFINED.**

23 In this title (except for section 608), the term “agen-
24 cy” has the meaning given that term under section 551
25 of title 5, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 608. GOVERNMENT-WIDE ENTITY IDENTIFIER.**

2 (a) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
3 “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive
4 agency” under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

5 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR ALL AGENCIES TO USE A
6 GOVERNMENT-WIDE ENTITY IDENTIFIER.—(1) Each
7 agency shall, to the extent practicable, require all private
8 sector entities from which it regularly collects reports, fil-
9 ings, forms, disclosures or other regularized information
10 to obtain a unique entity identifier.

11 (2) The unique entity identifier required under this
12 section shall allow private sector entities to be identified
13 uniquely across all Federal regulatory, procurement, as-
14 sistance, and other reporting regimes.

15 (c) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION CATEGORIZED
16 USING GOVERNMENT-WIDE ENTITY IDENTIFIER.—Each
17 agency shall, to the extent practicable, publish all public
18 regulatory, procurement, assistance, and other reported
19 information categorized using the unique entity identifier
20 required under this section.

21 (d) GOVERNANCE.—The unique entity identifier re-
22 quired under this section shall be based on the global enti-
23 ty identifier issued by—

24 (1) utilities endorsed by the Regulatory Over-
25 sight Committee, whose charter was set forth by the
26 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of

1 the Group of Twenty and the Financial Stability
2 Board; or

3 (2) utilities endorsed or otherwise governed by
4 the Global LEI Foundation so long as that Founda-
5 tion remains recognized by the Regulatory Oversight
6 Committee or any successor global public oversight
7 body.

8 **TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING**
9 **THE FREEDOM OF INFORMA-**
10 **TION ACT**

11 **SEC. 701. DIGITAL ACCESS TO COMPLETED RESPONSES TO**
12 **THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.**

13 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

14 (1) DATABASE OF COMPLETED FOIA RE-
15 QUESTS.—Each agency shall make available all ma-
16 terials contained in the agency’s completed response
17 to a request under section 552 of title 5, United
18 States Code (in this section referred to as a “FOIA
19 request”) in a structured database or in a search-
20 able, sortable, downloadable, machine-readable data-
21 base within 2 months after the date the FOIA re-
22 quest was completed.

23 (2) ELECTRONIC FORMAT.—All information is
24 presumed to be available in an electronic format as
25 described in paragraph (1) unless the agency dem-

1 onstrates that excessive cost would place an undue
2 burden on the agency.

3 (b) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—All information included
4 in the agency’s completed response to a FOIA request
5 shall be made available to the public electronically and
6 without cost through each agency’s website.

7 **SEC. 702. EXPLANATION REQUIRED FOR CREATION OF EX-**
8 **EMPTION IN THE FREEDOM OF INFORMA-**
9 **TION ACT.**

10 Section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code,
11 is amended by inserting “with an explanation for the ex-
12 emption” after “specifically cites to this paragraph”.

13 **SEC. 703. FOIAONLINE FOR AGENCIES.**

14 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the head of each agency shall use
16 FOIAonline to log, track, and publish all requests received
17 under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

18 **SEC. 704. AGENCY DEFINED.**

19 In this title, the term “agency” has the meaning
20 given that term under section 551 of title 5, United States
21 Code.

1 **TITLE VIII—IMPROVING TRANS-**
2 **PARENCY WITHIN THE JUDI-**
3 **CIAL SYSTEM**

4 **SEC. 801. TELEVISIONING SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 of title 28, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings**

9 “The Supreme Court shall permit television coverage
10 of all open sessions of the Court unless the Court decides,
11 by a vote of the majority of justices, that allowing such
12 coverage in a particular case would constitute a violation
13 of the due process rights of one or more of the parties
14 before the Court.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis
16 for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
17 by adding at the end the following:

“678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.”.

18 **SEC. 802. AUDIO RECORDING OF SUPREME COURT PRO-**
19 **CEEDINGS.**

20 The Chief Justice of the United States shall ensure
21 that the audio of an oral argument before the Supreme
22 Court of the United States is recorded and is made pub-
23 licly available on the Internet website of the Supreme
24 Court at the same time that it is recorded.

1 **SEC. 803. AVAILABILITY ON THE INTERNET OF FINANCIAL**
2 **DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF JUDICIAL OFFI-**
3 **CERS.**

4 Section 103 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978
5 (5 U.S.C. App. 103), as amended by this Act, is further
6 amended by inserting at the end the following:

7 “(n) The Judicial Conference shall make available
8 any report filed with it under this title by a judicial officer
9 within 48 hours of the applicable submission deadline on
10 the website of the Judicial Conference in a searchable,
11 sortable, downloadable, machine-readable format.”.

12 **SEC. 804. GAO AUDIT OF PACER.**

13 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
15 States shall conduct an audit of the public access to court
16 electronic records system maintained by the Administra-
17 tive Office of the United States Courts, and shall submit
18 to Congress, the Administrative Office of the United
19 States Courts, and any other appropriate Federal agency
20 or office, a report that contains the results of the audit,
21 along with any recommendations for improving the public
22 access to court electronic records system.

1 **TITLE IX—ENFORCEMENT**

2 **SEC. 901. AUDITS BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

3 **OFFICE.**

4 (a) **AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**—The Comptroller Gen-
5 eral shall conduct annual audits of the implementation of
6 the provisions in this Act, and shall submit annually to
7 the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
10 ate a report on the results of the audits.

11 (b) **MATTERS COVERED BY AUDITS.**—Audits con-
12 ducted under this section shall address whether the con-
13 gressional and executive branch data that is required to
14 be provided to the public through the Internet is each of
15 the following:

16 (1) **COMPLETE.**—Made available, except for
17 data that is subject to privacy, security, or privilege
18 exemptions.

19 (2) **PRIMARY.**—Collected at the source, with the
20 highest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate
21 or modified forms.

22 (3) **TIMELY.**—Made available as quickly as nec-
23 essary to preserve the value of the data.

24 (4) **ACCESSIBLE.**—Available to the widest range
25 of users for the widest range of purposes.

1 (5) MACHINE PROCESSABLE.—Reasonably
2 structured to allow automated processing.

3 (6) NON-DISCRIMINATORY.—Available to any-
4 one, with no registration requirement.

5 (7) NON-PROPRIETARY.—Available in a format
6 over which no entity has exclusive control.

7 (8) LICENSE-FREE.—Not subject to any copy-
8 right, patent, trademark, or trade secret regulation
9 (with reasonable privacy, security, and privilege re-
10 strictions).

11 (c) CURRENT STANDARDS.—Audits conducted under
12 this section shall also address whether the data provided
13 to the public under this Act is produced and maintained
14 using current standards for data publication.

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