

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2592

To establish a clearinghouse of information concerning telecommunications technologies that are useful in distance learning programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1993

Mr. KREIDLER (for himself, Mrs. UNSOELD, and Mr. McDERMOTT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish a clearinghouse of information concerning telecommunications technologies that are useful in distance learning programs, 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 “Distance Learning In-  
5 formation Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the use by schools, libraries, public broad-  
9 casters and nonprofit organizations of telecommuni-

1 cations technologies to enhance access to education  
2 and training should be encouraged and supported;

3 (2) the Federal Government supports and will  
4 expand its support for the development of these  
5 services through the public telecommunications fa-  
6 cilities program of the National Telecommunications  
7 and Information Administration and other grant  
8 programs;

9 (3) one of the problems experienced by both  
10 providers of “distance learning” as well as by Fed-  
11 eral grant administrators is a lack of data on which  
12 technologies are most useful for given situations and  
13 educational curricula; and

14 (4) as a result, money spent on distance learn-  
15 ing programs may not be spent as efficiently as  
16 possible.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

18 (1) to achieve significant cost savings and im-  
19 proved distance learning services by establishing, at  
20 the National Telecommunications and Information  
21 Administration of the Department of Commerce, an  
22 “information clearinghouse” for distance learning  
23 activities to gather and distribute information on the  
24 effectiveness of distance learning programs and the  
25 technologies used in such programs; and

1           (2) to require that any entity obtaining funding  
2           from the public telecommunicatinos facilities pro-  
3           gram for distance learning activities must submit a  
4           report on the effectiveness of its facility.

5 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.**

6           Part A of the National Telecommunications and In-  
7           formation Administration Organization Act is amended—

8           (1) in section 103(b), by striking “section  
9           105(d)” both places it appears and inserting “sec-  
10          tion 106(d)”;

11          (2) by redesignating section 105 as section 106;  
12          and

13          (3) by inserting after section 104 the following  
14          new section:

15 **“SEC. 105. DISTANCE LEARNING INFORMATION CLEARING-**  
16 **HOUSE.**

17          “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Assistant Sec-  
18          retary shall, in accordance with the requirements of this  
19          section, establish within the National Telecommunications  
20          and Information Administration Organizat Act a clearing-  
21          house for the collection and dissemination of information  
22          concerning distance learning.

23          “(b) FUNCTIONS OF CLEARINGHOUSE.—The func-  
24          tions of the clearinghouse established under subsection (a)  
25          shall include the following:



1           (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
2           (5);

3           (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
4           graph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

5           (3) by adding at the end the following new  
6           paragraph:

7           “(7) the applicant will submit to the distance  
8           learning clearinghouse established under section 105  
9           of the National Telecommunications and Informa-  
10          tion Administration Organization Act such informa-  
11          tion concerning the project funded by the grant as  
12          the Secretary may require in order to promote the  
13          purposes of such clearinghouse.”.

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