

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2013

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

Sec. 3. Amendments to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

- Sec. 4. Pilot program to evaluate consolidated recipient reporting.
- Sec. 5. Classified and protected information.
- Sec. 6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 amendments.
- Sec. 7. Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 amendments.
- Sec. 8. Executive agency accounting and other financial management reports and plans.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are to—

3 (1) expand the Federal Funding Accountability
4 and Transparency Act of 2006 by disclosing direct
5 Federal agency expenditures and linking Federal
6 contract, loan, and grant spending information to
7 programs of Federal agencies in order to enable tax-
8 payers and policymakers to track Federal spending
9 more effectively;

10 (2) provide consistent, reliable, and searchable
11 Government-wide spending data that is displayed ac-
12 curately for taxpayers and policymakers on
13 USASpending.gov;

14 (3) analyze Federal spending data to
15 proactively prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and im-
16 proper payments;

17 (4) simplify reporting for entities receiving Fed-
18 eral funds by streamlining reporting requirements
19 and reducing compliance costs while improving
20 transparency; and

21 (5) improve the quality of data submitted to
22 USASpending.gov by holding Federal agencies ac-

1 countable for the completeness and accuracy of the
2 data submitted.

3 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING AC-**
4 **COUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF**
5 **2006.**

6 Section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
7 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**FULL**
10 **DISCLOSURE OF ENTITIES RECEIVING FED-**
11 **ERAL FUNDING**” and inserting “**DISCLOSURE OF**
12 **FEDERAL FUNDING**”;

13 (2) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
15 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (7), respectively;

16 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
17 following new paragraph (2):

18 “(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ‘Federal
19 agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘Executive
20 agency’ under section 105 of title 5, United States
21 Code.”;

22 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3), as re-
23 designated by subparagraph (A), the following
24 new paragraphs:

1 “(4) FEDERAL FUNDS.—The term ‘Federal
2 funds’ means any funds that are made available to
3 or expended by a Federal agency.

4 “(5) OBJECT CLASS.—The term ‘object class’
5 means the category assigned for purposes of the an-
6 nual budget of the President submitted under sec-
7 tion 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to the
8 type of property or services purchased by the Fed-
9 eral Government.

10 “(6) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program
11 activity’ has the meaning given that term under sec-
12 tion 1115(h) of title 31, United States Code.”; and

13 (D) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by
14 subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 “paragraph (2)(A)(i)” and inserting “para-
17 graph (3)(A)(i)”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
19 “paragraph (2)(A)(ii)” and inserting
20 “paragraph (3)(A)(ii)”;

21 (3) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) by striking “the Office of Manage-
24 ment and Budget” and inserting “the Sec-

1 retary of the Treasury” each place it ap-
2 pears;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
4 (A) through (G) as clauses (i) through
5 (vii), respectively, and adjusting the mar-
6 gin accordingly;

7 (iii) by striking “for each Federal
8 award—” and inserting the following: “for
9 all Federal funds—

10 “(A) for each Federal agency, component
11 of a Federal agency, appropriations account,
12 program activity, and object class (including
13 any subcomponent of an object class), and other
14 accounts or data as appropriate—

15 “(i) the amount of budget authority
16 available;

17 “(ii) the amount obligated;

18 “(iii) the amount of outlays;

19 “(iv) the amount of any Federal funds
20 reprogrammed or transferred; and

21 “(v) the amount of expired and unex-
22 pired unobligated balances; and

23 “(B) for each Federal award—”; and

24 (iv) in subparagraph (B)(iii), as so
25 designated by this subparagraph, by insert-

1 ing “, which shall be assigned a unique
2 identifier,” after “information on the
3 award”;

4 (B) in paragraph (3)—

5 (i) by striking “The Director of the
6 Office of Management and Budget” and
7 inserting “The Secretary of the Treasury”;
8 and

9 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
10 sserting “the Secretary”;

11 (C) in paragraph (4)—

12 (i) by striking “the Director of the
13 Office of Management and Budget” and
14 inserting “the Secretary of the Treasury”;
15 and

16 (ii) by striking “the Director” and in-
17 sserting “the Secretary”, each place it ap-
18 pears; and

19 (D) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(5) APPLICATION OF DATA STANDARDS.—The
21 Secretary of the Treasury shall apply the data
22 standards established under subsection (e) to all
23 data collection, data dissemination, and data publi-
24 cation required under this section.

1 “(6) DATA FEED TO RECOVERY ACCOUNT-
2 ABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD.—The Sec-
3 retary of the Treasury shall provide the data de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) to the Recovery Account-
5 ability and Transparency Board so that it can be in-
6 cluded in the Recovery Operations Center described
7 in subsection (h).”;

8 (4) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
11 graph (A), by striking “and Grants.gov”
12 and inserting “Grants.gov, the Payment
13 Automation Manager and Financial Infor-
14 mation Repository and other data or data-
15 bases from the Department of the Treas-
16 ury, the MAX Information System of the
17 Office of Management and Budget, and
18 other data from Federal agencies collected
19 and identified by the Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding
22 “and” at the end; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(C) specify such search shall be confined
2 to Federal funds;”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the
4 Payment Automation Manager and Financial
5 Information Repository and other data or data-
6 bases from the Department of the Treasury, the
7 MAX Information System of the Office of Man-
8 agement and Budget, other data from Federal
9 agencies collected and identified by the Office of
10 Management and Budget,” after “Grants.gov
11 website,”;

12 (C) in paragraph (4)—

13 (i) by striking “shall be updated not
14 later” and inserting the following: “shall
15 be updated—

16 “(A) not later”; and

17 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(B) not less than once each quarter with
20 information relating to Federal funds;”;

21 (D) in paragraph (5)—

22 (i) by inserting “Federal funds and”
23 before “Federal awards” the first place it
24 appears;

1 (ii) by striking “subsection
2 (a)(2)(A)(i) and those described in sub-
3 section (a)(2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “sub-
4 section (a)(3)(A)(i) and those described in
5 subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)”;

6 (iii) by striking the period at the end
7 and inserting a semicolon; and

8 (E) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(6) shall have the ability to aggregate data for
10 the categories described in paragraphs (1) through
11 (5) without double-counting data; and

12 “(7) shall permit all information published
13 under this section to be downloaded in bulk.”;

14 (5) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and
15 (g) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

16 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
17 lowing new subsections:

18 “(e) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY REQUIRE-
19 MENTS FOR DATA STANDARDS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
21 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of the
22 Office of Management and Budget, the Adminis-
23 trator of General Services, and the heads of Federal
24 agencies, shall establish Government-wide financial
25 data standards for Federal funds, which shall—

1 “(A) include common data elements, such
2 as codes, unique award identifiers, and fields,
3 for financial and payment information required
4 to be reported by Federal agencies and entities
5 receiving Federal funds, including identifiers for
6 Federal awards and entities receiving Federal
7 awards;

8 “(B) to the extent reasonable and prac-
9 ticable, ensure interoperability and incor-
10 porate—

11 “(i) common data elements developed
12 and maintained by an international vol-
13 untary consensus standards body, as de-
14 fined by the Office of Management and
15 Budget, such as the International Organi-
16 zation for Standardization;

17 “(ii) common data elements developed
18 and maintained by Federal agencies with
19 authority over contracting and financial as-
20 sistance, such as the Federal Acquisition
21 Regulatory Council; and

22 “(iii) common data elements devel-
23 oped and maintained by accounting stand-
24 ards organizations; and

1 “(C) include data reporting standards
2 that—

3 “(i) incorporate a widely accepted,
4 nonproprietary, searchable, platform-inde-
5 pendent computer-readable format;

6 “(ii) are consistent with and imple-
7 ment applicable accounting principles;

8 “(iii) are capable of being continually
9 upgraded as necessary;

10 “(iv) are structured to specifically
11 support the reporting of financial and per-
12 formance-related data, such as that any
13 data produced, regardless of reporting
14 need or software used for creation or con-
15 sumption, is consistent and comparable
16 across reporting situations;

17 “(v) establish, for each data point, a
18 standard method of conveying the report-
19 ing period, reporting entity, unit of meas-
20 ure, and other associated attributes; and

21 “(vi) incorporate nonproprietary
22 standards in effect on the date of enact-
23 ment of the Digital Accountability and
24 Transparency Act of 2013.

25 “(2) DEADLINES.—

1 “(A) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the
2 Treasury, in consultation with the Director of
3 the Office of Management and Budget, shall
4 issue guidance on the data standards estab-
5 lished under paragraph (1) to Federal agencies
6 not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
7 ment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
8 parency Act of 2013.

9 “(B) WEBSITE.—Not later than 1 year
10 after the date on which the guidance under
11 clause (i) is issued, the Secretary of the Treas-
12 ury shall ensure that the website required under
13 this section makes data publicly available in ac-
14 cordance with the data standards established
15 under paragraph (1).

16 “(C) AGENCIES.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date on which the guidance under sub-
18 paragraph (A) is issued, each Federal agency
19 shall collect, report, and maintain data in ac-
20 cordance with the data standards established
21 under paragraph (1).

22 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of the
23 Treasury shall consult with public and private stake-
24 holders in establishing data standards under this
25 subsection.

1 “(f) CONSOLIDATED RECIPIENT FINANCIAL RE-
2 PORTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and
3 Budget shall—

4 “(1) review the financial reporting required by
5 Federal agencies for Federal award recipients to
6 consolidate financial reporting and reduce duplica-
7 tive financial reporting and compliance costs for re-
8 cipients;

9 “(2) request input from Federal award recipi-
10 ents to reduce duplicative financial reporting, espe-
11 cially from State and local governments and institu-
12 tions of higher education;

13 “(3) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
14 actment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
15 parency Act of 2013, provide guidance to the heads
16 of Federal agencies regarding how to simplify the re-
17 porting requirements for Federal award recipients to
18 consolidate financial reporting, reduce duplicative re-
19 porting, and reduce compliance costs, as appro-
20 priate; and

21 “(4) not later than 18 months after the date of
22 enactment of the Digital Accountability and Trans-
23 parency Act of 2013, submit to Congress a report
24 regarding any legislative action required to consoli-

1 date, streamline, or reduce the cost of reporting re-
2 quirements for Federal award recipients.

3 “(g) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
5 the date of enactment of the Digital Accountability
6 and Transparency Act of 2013, and every 2 years
7 thereafter until the date that is 6 years after such
8 date of enactment, the Inspector General of each
9 Federal agency, in consultation with the Comptroller
10 General of the United States, shall review a sam-
11 pling of the data submitted under this Act by the
12 agency, and shall submit to Congress and make pub-
13 licly available a report on the completeness, timeli-
14 ness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and
15 the implementation and use of consistent data
16 standards by the Federal agency.

17 “(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
19 after the date of enactment of the Digital Ac-
20 countability and Transparency Act of 2013, and
21 every 2 years thereafter until the date that is
22 6 years after such date of enactment, and after
23 review of the reports submitted under para-
24 graph (1), the Comptroller General of the
25 United States shall submit to Congress and

1 make publicly available a report on the com-
2 pleteness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of
3 the data submitted under this Act by each Fed-
4 eral agency and the implementation and use of
5 consistent data standards by each Federal
6 agency.

7 “(B) RANKING.—The Comptroller General
8 of the United States shall make available a
9 ranking of Federal agencies regarding data
10 quality, accuracy, and compliance with this Act.

11 “(h) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANS-
12 PARENCY BOARD.—

13 “(1) RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS.—The Re-
14 covery Accountability and Transparency Board shall
15 develop and test information technology resources
16 and oversight mechanisms to enhance the trans-
17 parency of and detect and remediate waste, fraud,
18 and abuse in Federal spending for Inspectors Gen-
19 eral.

20 “(2) WEBSITE.—The Recovery Accountability
21 and Transparency Board shall maintain a website
22 informing the public of its activities to identify
23 waste, fraud, and abuse and increase transparency
24 of Federal funds to provide support for Inspectors
25 General.

1 “(3) RECOVERY OPERATIONS CENTER.—The
2 Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board
3 shall establish and maintain a Recovery Operations
4 Center as a Government-wide Internet-based data
5 access system to carry out the functions described in
6 paragraph (4).

7 “(4) FUNCTIONS OF THE RECOVERY OPER-
8 ATIONS CENTER.—The functions referred to in para-
9 graph (3) are the following:

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Recovery Oper-
11 ations Center shall incorporate—

12 “(i) all information described in sub-
13 section (b)(1);

14 “(ii) other information maintained by
15 Federal, State, local, and foreign govern-
16 ment agencies; and

17 “(iii) other commercially and publicly
18 available information.

19 “(B) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The Recovery
20 Operations Center shall be designed and oper-
21 ated to carry out the following functions:

22 “(i) Combine information described in
23 subsection (b)(1) with other compilations
24 of information, including those listed in
25 subparagraph (A).

1 “(ii) Permit agencies, in accordance
2 with applicable law, to detect and reme-
3 diate waste, fraud, and abuse.”.

4 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE CONSOLIDATED RE-**
5 **CIPIENT REPORTING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Recovery Accountability
8 and Transparency Board, in consultation with the Sec-
9 retary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of
10 Management and Budget, shall establish a pilot program
11 relating to reporting by recipients of Federal funds (in this
12 section referred to as the “pilot program”) for the purpose
13 of increasing financial transparency to—

- 14 (1) display the full cycle of Federal funds;
15 (2) improve the accuracy of Federal financial
16 data; and
17 (3) develop recommendations for reducing re-
18 porting required of recipients of Federal funds by
19 consolidating and automating financial reporting re-
20 quirements across the Federal Government.

21 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program shall—

- 22 (1) include recipients that collectively receive
23 not less than \$1,000,000,000 in Federal funds each
24 fiscal year;

1 (2) include recipients that receive Federal funds
2 under multiple programs across multiple agencies;
3 and

4 (3) include recipients that collectively receive
5 Federal funds under contracts, grants, and sub-
6 awards.

7 (c) REPORTING AND EVALUATION REQUIRE-
8 MENTS.—Each recipient of Federal funds participating in
9 the pilot program shall submit to the Recovery Account-
10 ability and Transparency Board reports on the finances
11 of the selected Federal awards.

12 (d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—All the infor-
13 mation collected by the Recovery Accountability and
14 Transparency Board under the pilot program shall be
15 made publicly available and searchable on the website es-
16 tablished under section 2 of the Federal Funding Account-
17 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101
18 note).

19 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
20 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
21 the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board es-
22 tablishes the pilot program.

23 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date on which the pilot program terminates
25 under subsection (e), the Recovery Accountability and

1 Transparency Board shall submit to the Committee on
2 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the
3 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the
4 House of Representatives a report on the pilot program,
5 which shall include—

6 (1) a description of financial data collected
7 under the pilot program, the accuracy of the data
8 provided, and the cost to collect the data from re-
9 cipients; and

10 (2) recommendations for—

11 (A) consolidating some or all aspects of
12 Federal financial reporting to reduce the costs
13 to recipients of Federal funds;

14 (B) automating some or all aspects of Fed-
15 eral financial reporting to increase efficiency
16 and reduce the costs to recipients of Federal
17 funds; and

18 (C) improving financial transparency.

19 **SEC. 5. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

20 Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and
21 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is
22 amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 3. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.**

2 “Nothing in this Act shall require the disclosure to
3 the public or to any person without an identifiable need
4 to know—

5 “(1) information protected under section 552 of
6 title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the
7 ‘Freedom of Information Act’); or

8 “(2) information protected under section 552a
9 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as
10 the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), or section 6103 of the
11 Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

12 **SEC. 6. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF**
13 **2009 AMENDMENTS.**

14 Public Law 111–5 is amended—

15 (1) in subsection 1501(4) of title XV, by adding
16 before the period at the end the following: “except
17 that, in subtitle B, the term means any funds that
18 are obligated or expended by an agency from appro-
19 priations made under this or any other Act”;

20 (2) in section 1512 of title XV, by adding at
21 the end the following:

22 “(i) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
23 shall expire on September 31, 2013.”;

24 (3) in section 1523 of title XV, by adding at
25 the end the following:

1 “(d) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
2 shall expire on September 30, 2013.”;

3 (4) in section 1526 of title XV, by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “(e) EXPIRATION.—The requirements in this section
6 shall expire on September 30, 2013.”; and

7 (5) in section 1530 of title XV, by striking
8 “September 30, 2013,” and inserting “September
9 30, 2017.”.

10 **SEC. 7. DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013**

11 **AMENDMENTS.**

12 Public Law 113–2 is amended in section 904(d)—

13 (1) by striking “for purposes related to the im-
14 pact of Hurricane Sandy”;

15 (2) by striking “related to the impact of Hurri-
16 cane Sandy” after “receiving appropriations”; and

17 (3) by striking “related to funds appropriated
18 for the impact of Hurricane Sandy” after “on its ac-
19 tivities”.

20 **SEC. 8. EXECUTIVE AGENCY ACCOUNTING AND OTHER FI-**

21 **NANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS AND**

22 **PLANS.**

23 Section 3512(a) of title 31, United States Code, is
24 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and make
2 available on the website described under section
3 1122 of this title” after “appropriate committees of
4 the Congress”;

5 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)(vi), by inserting “, sys-
6 tem development, financial management workforce
7 development, related risk assessment and mitigation
8 for the Federal Government as a whole, related risk
9 assessment and mitigation for executive agencies,
10 development of capacity to prevent and detect
11 fraud,” after “equipment acquisitions”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
13 following:

14 “(C) Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
15 ment of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act
16 of 2013, and every 90 days thereafter, the Director shall
17 make available on the website described under section
18 1122 of this title a report regarding—

19 “(i) specific goals for the most recent full fiscal
20 year, the fiscal year during which the report is sub-
21 mitted, and the fiscal year following the year during
22 which the report is submitted that are necessary
23 steps toward implementing the Federal Funding Ac-
24 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31

1 U.S.C. 6101 note) fully and in an effective, efficient,
2 and accurate manner; and

3 “(ii) the status and progress achieved toward
4 each goal described in clause (i), including any
5 changes to the cost, schedule, or performance base-
6 lines of achieving each goal, using earned value man-
7 agement where appropriate.”.

○