

104TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2715

[Report No. 104-520, Part I]

To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions, Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 1995

Mr. TORKILDSEN (for himself, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. TALENT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ZELIFF, Mr. EWING, Mr. JONES, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CHRYSLER, Mr. METCALF, and Mr. RAMSTAD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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

APRIL 16, 1996

Reported from the Committee on Small Business with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 5, 1995]

A BILL

To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to minimize the burden of Federal paperwork demands upon small businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions,

Federal contractors, State and local governments, and other persons through the sponsorship and use of alternative information technologies.

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 “Paperwork Elimination*
5 *Act of 1996”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 *The purpose of this Act is to—*

8 (1) *minimize the burden of Federal paperwork*
9 *demands upon small businesses, educational and non-*
10 *profit institutions, Federal contractors, State and*
11 *local governments, and other persons through the*
12 *sponsorship and use of alternative information tech-*
13 *nologies, including the use of electronic maintenance,*
14 *submission, or disclosure of information to substitute*
15 *for paper; and*

16 (2) *more effectively enable Federal agencies to*
17 *achieve the purposes of chapter 35 of title 44, United*
18 *States Code, popularly known as the “Paperwork Re-*
19 *duction Act”.*

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF**
2 **THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**

3 (a) *DIRECTION AND OVERSIGHT OF INFORMATION*
4 *TECHNOLOGY.*—Section 3504(a)(1)(B)(vi) of title 44, Unit-
5 *ed States Code, is amended to read as follows:*

6 “(vi) *the acquisition and use of information*
7 *technology, including the use of alternative infor-*
8 *mation technologies, such as the use of electronic*
9 *submission, maintenance, or disclosure of infor-*
10 *mation to substitute for paper.”.*

11 (b) *PROMOTION OF USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION*
12 *TECHNOLOGY.*—Section 3504(h) of title 44, United States
13 *Code, is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at*
14 *the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end*
15 *of paragraph (5) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at*
16 *the end the following:*

17 “(6) *specifically promote the optional use of elec-*
18 *tronic maintenance, submission, or disclosure of in-*
19 *formation where appropriate, as an alternative infor-*
20 *mation technology to substitute for paper.”.*

21 **SEC. 4. ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS AND DEADLINES.**

22 Section 3505(a)(3) of title 44, United States Code, is
23 amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end
24 of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of
25 subparagraph (C) and inserting “; and”, and by adding
26 at the end the following:

1 “(D) a description of progress in providing
2 for the use of electronic submission, maintenance,
3 or disclosure of information to substitute for
4 paper, including the extent to which such
5 progress accomplishes reduction of burden on
6 small businesses or other persons.”.

7 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

8 (a) *PROVIDING FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMA-*
9 *TION MANAGEMENT.*—Section 3506(c)(1)(B) of title 44,
10 *United States Code, is amended by striking “and” after the*
11 *semicolon at the end of clause (ii) and by adding at the*
12 *end the following:*

13 “(iv) provides for the optional use,
14 where appropriate, of electronic mainte-
15 nance, submission, or disclosure of informa-
16 tion; and”.

17 (b) *PROMOTION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MAN-*
18 *AGEMENT.*—Section 3506(c)(3)(C) of title 44, *United States*
19 *Code, is amended by striking “or” after the semicolon at*
20 *the end of clause (ii), by adding “or” after the semicolon*
21 *at the end of clause (iii), and by adding at the end the*
22 *following:*

23 “(iv) the promotion and optional use,
24 where appropriate, of electronic mainte-

1 nance, submission, or disclosure of informa-
2 tion.”.

3 (c) *USE OF ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION TECH-*
4 *NOLOGIES.*—Section 3506(c)(3)(J) of title 44, United States
5 *Code, is amended to read as follows:*

6 “(J) to the maximum extent practicable,
7 uses alternative information technologies, includ-
8 ing the use of electronic maintenance, submis-
9 sion, or disclosure of information, to reduce bur-
10 den and improve data quality, agency efficiency
11 and responsiveness to the public.”.

12 **SEC. 6. PUBLIC INFORMATION COLLECTION ACTIVITIES;**
13 **SUBMISSION TO DIRECTOR; APPROVAL AND**
14 **DELEGATION.**

15 Section 3507(a)(1)(D)(ii) of title 44, United States
16 *Code, is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at*
17 *the end of subclause (V), by adding “and” after the semi-*
18 *colon at the end of subclause (VI), and by adding at the*
19 *end the following:*

20 “(VII) a description of how re-
21 spondents may, if appropriate, elec-
22 tronically maintain, submit, or dis-
23 close information under the collection
24 of information.”.

1 **SEC. 7. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

2 *Section 3514(a)(2) of title 44, United States Code, is*
3 *amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end*
4 *of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end of*
5 *subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”, and by adding*
6 *at the end the following:*

7 *“(E) reduced the collection of information bur-*
8 *den on small businesses and other persons through the*
9 *use of electronic maintenance, submission, or disclo-*
10 *sure of information to substitute for paper mainte-*
11 *nance, submission, or disclosure of information, in-*
12 *cluding—*

13 *“(i) a description of instances where such*
14 *substitution has added to burden; and*

15 *“(ii) specific identification of such instances*
16 *relating to the Internal Revenue Service.”.*

17 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 *This Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.*

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