

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5301

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 29, 2023

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself and Mr. GROTHMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.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 “Eliminate Useless Re-
5 ports Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d);

6 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—
10 The term ‘budget justification materials’ has the
11 meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the
12 Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency
13 Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109–
14 282).

15 “(2) RECURRING PLAN OR REPORT.—The term
16 ‘recurring plan or report’—

17 “(A) means any plan or report submitted
18 to Congress by not less than 1 agency on a re-
19 curring basis—

20 “(i) in accordance with Federal law;

21 or

22 “(ii) at the direction of a congres-
23 sional report; and

24 “(B) does not include any plan or report
25 that is required to be submitted to the Com-
26 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate.

1 “(3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COM-
2 MITTEE.—The term ‘relevant congressional com-
3 mittee’ means a congressional committee to which a
4 recurring plan or report is required to be submitted.

5 “(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY
6 REPORTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency
8 shall include in the budget justification materials of
9 the agency—

10 “(A) subject to paragraph (2), a list of
11 each recurring plan or report submitted by the
12 agency that the head of the agency determines
13 to be outdated or duplicative;

14 “(B) with respect to each recurring plan or
15 report described in subparagraph (A)—

16 “(i) a recommendation on whether to
17 sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the
18 frequency of the submission of the recur-
19 ring plan or report;

20 “(ii) a citation to each provision of
21 law or directive in a congressional report
22 that requires or requests the submission of
23 the recurring plan or report; and

1 “(iii) a list of the relevant congress-
2 sional committees for the recurring plan or
3 report; and

4 “(C) a justification explaining, with respect
5 to each recommendation described in subpara-
6 graph (B)(i) relating to a recurring plan or re-
7 port—

8 “(i) why the head of the agency made
9 the recommendation, which may include an
10 estimate of the resources expended by the
11 agency to prepare and submit the recur-
12 ring plan or report; and

13 “(ii) the understanding of the head of
14 the agency of the purpose of the recurring
15 plan or report.

16 “(2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the list
18 required under paragraph (1)(A), if, in submit-
19 ting a recurring plan or report, an agency is re-
20 quired to coordinate or consult with another
21 agency or entity, the head of the agency sub-
22 mitting the recurring plan or report shall con-
23 sult with the head of each agency or entity with
24 whom consultation or coordination is required.

1 “(B) INCLUSION IN LIST.—If, after a con-
2 sultation under subparagraph (A), the head of
3 each agency or entity consulted under that sub-
4 paragraph agrees that a recurring plan or re-
5 port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the
6 agency required to submit the recurring plan or
7 report shall—

8 “(i) include the recurring plan or re-
9 port in the list described in paragraph
10 (1)(A); and

11 “(ii) identify each agency or entity
12 with which the head of the agency is re-
13 quired to coordinate or consult in submit-
14 ting the recurring plan or report.

15 “(C) DISAGREEMENT.—If the head of any
16 agency or entity consulted under subparagraph
17 (A) does not agree that a recurring plan or re-
18 port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the
19 agency required to submit the recurring plan or
20 report shall not include the recurring plan or
21 report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A).

22 “(3) GOVERNMENT-WIDE OR MULTI-AGENCY
23 PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS.—With respect to
24 a recurring plan or report required to be submitted

1 by not less than 2 agencies, the Director of the Of-
2 fice of Management and Budget shall—

3 “(A) determine whether the requirement to
4 submit the recurring plan or report is outdated
5 or duplicative; and

6 “(B) make recommendations to Congress
7 accordingly.

8 “(c) DISPOSITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a rec-
10 ommendation on a recurring plan or report included
11 in budget justification materials by the head of an
12 agency under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), the chair and
13 ranking member of each relevant congressional com-
14 mittee may—

15 “(A) in coordination with any other rel-
16 evant congressional committee, as necessary,
17 agree or disagree with the recommendation or
18 postpone a decision on the recommendation;
19 and

20 “(B) notify each agency that submits a
21 recommendation of the disposition of the rec-
22 ommendation under subparagraph (A).

23 “(2) LEGISLATIVE STEPS.—If a relevant con-
24 gressional committee agrees with an agency rec-
25 ommendation submitted under subsection

1 (b)(1)(B)(i), the relevant congressional committee
2 may take the necessary legislative steps to accom-
3 plish the recommendation, which may include con-
4 sulting with the agency that submits the recurring
5 plan or report that is the subject of the rec-
6 ommendation to prepare appropriate legislation.

7 “(3) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this
8 section shall be construed to relieve the head of an
9 agency from a requirement to submit a recurring
10 plan or report.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by
12 striking “in the budget of the United States Govern-
13 ment, as provided by section 1105(a)(37)” and in-
14 sserting “in the budget justification materials of each
15 agency”.

16 (b) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title
17 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph
18 (39).

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