

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3027

To save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2018

Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. JONES, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, 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 “Modernizing Congres-
5 sional Reporting Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “acceptable electronic format”
2 means a file format and metadata elements author-
3 ized by the National Archives and Records Adminis-
4 tration for the transfer of permanent electronic
5 records—

6 (A) as set forth in—

7 (i) National Archives and Records Ad-
8 ministration Bulletin 2014–04: Revised
9 Format Guidance for the Transfer of Per-
10 manent Electronic Records, dated January
11 31, 2014, or any successor bulletin; and

12 (ii) National Archives and Records
13 Administration Bulletin 2015–04:
14 Metadata Guidance for the Transfer of
15 Permanent Electronic Records, dated Sep-
16 tember 15, 2015, or any successor bulletin;
17 and

18 (B) that complies with the requirements of
19 the Office of Management and Budget Memo-
20 randum on the Managing Government Records
21 Directive, dated August 24, 2012 (M–12–18),
22 or any successor memorandum;

23 (2) the term “agency” has the meaning given
24 the term in section 551 of title 5, United States
25 Code;

1 (3) the term “congressional office” means—

2 (A) an office of any committee or sub-
3 committee of the Senate or the House of Rep-
4 resentatives, including any select or special
5 committee;

6 (B) an office of any individual Senator or
7 Member of the House of Representatives; and

8 (C) a leadership office of the Senate or the
9 House of Representatives; and

10 (4) the term “structured data” has the meaning
11 given the term in National Archives and Records
12 Administration Bulletin 2014–04: Revised Format
13 Guidance for the Transfer of Permanent Electronic
14 Records, dated January 31, 2014, or any successor
15 bulletin.

16 **SEC. 3. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF REPORTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—On or after the date that is 30
18 days after the date of enactment of this Act, except as
19 provided in subsection (c) and to the extent specifically
20 required otherwise by law—

21 (1) any report or written communication re-
22 quired to be submitted to Congress by an agency
23 under any provision of law, and any response from
24 an agency to a request by a congressional office for

1 written information, shall only be transmitted by the
2 agency in an acceptable electronic format; and

3 (2) any structured data included in or with any
4 report, written communication, or written informa-
5 tion described in paragraph (1) shall be transmitted
6 by the agency in an acceptable electronic format for
7 structured data.

8 (b) **FORMAT PREFERENCE.**—

9 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—In transmitting a report,
10 written communication, or written information de-
11 scribed in subsection (a) to a congressional office, an
12 agency shall, to the extent possible, provide the
13 original electronic file or an electronically converted
14 file rather than a scanned document, even if the doc-
15 ument includes a signature.

16 (2) **SEARCHABLE SCANNED DOCUMENTS.**—
17 Each scanned document that is transmitted by an
18 agency to a congressional office shall be made
19 searchable via optical character recognition or other
20 means.

21 (c) **OTHER FORMATS.**—An agency that transmits a
22 report, written communication, or written information de-
23 scribed in subsection (a) to a congressional office in an
24 acceptable electronic format may, if requested by the con-

1 gressional office, transmit the report, written communica-
2 tion, or written information to the congressional office—

3 (1) in an electronic format that is not an ac-
4 ceptable electronic format;

5 (2) as a physical document; or

6 (3) in camera.

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