

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2968

To require the disclosure of information relating to the cost of programs,  
projects, or activities carried out using Federal funds.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2023

Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. MACE, and Mr. TIMMONS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

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## A BILL

To require the disclosure of information relating to the cost  
of programs, projects, or activities carried out using Federal  
funds.

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 “Cost Openness and  
5 Spending Transparency Act of 2023” or the “COST Act  
6 of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL**  
2 **FUNDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 13 of  
4 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following:

6 **“§ 1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds**

7 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘agency’  
8 means—

9 “(1) an Executive agency, as defined in section  
10 105 of title 5; and

11 “(2) an independent regulatory agency, as de-  
12 fined in section 3502 of title 44.

13 “(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—An agency and  
14 an individual or entity (including a State or local govern-  
15 ment and a recipient of a Federal research grant) carrying  
16 out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole or in  
17 part, carried out using Federal funds shall clearly state  
18 in any statement, press release, request for proposals, bid  
19 solicitation, or other document describing the program,  
20 project, or activity, other than a communication con-  
21 taining not more than 280 characters—

22 “(1) the percentage of the total costs of the  
23 program, project, or activity which will be financed  
24 with Federal funds;

1           “(2) the dollar amount of the Federal funds  
2           made available for the program, project, or activity;  
3           and

4           “(3) the percentage of the total costs of, and  
5           dollar amount for, the program, project, or activity  
6           that will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

7           “(c) CERTIFICATION.—An individual or entity car-  
8           rying out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole  
9           or in part, carried out using Federal funds shall, as part  
10          of the performance progress reporting regarding the pro-  
11          gram, project, or activity, include a certification indicating  
12          whether the individual or entity complied with the dislo-  
13          sure requirements.

14          “(d) COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—The Director of the Of-  
15          fice of Management and Budget shall annually—

16                 “(1) review a random sampling of public com-  
17                 munications issued by agencies and recipients of  
18                 Federal funds for compliance with the disclosure re-  
19                 quirements under subsection (b); and

20                 “(2) make publicly available the findings of the  
21                 review under paragraph (1).

22          “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year  
23          after the date of enactment of this section, the Director  
24          of the Office of Management and Budget shall make avail-  
25          able to the public a mechanism to anonymously report

1 communications that do not comply with the disclosure re-  
2 quirements under subsection (b), which shall require that  
3 such a report include—

4 “(1) the noncompliant communication or, if  
5 publicly available, the location of the noncompliant  
6 communication; and

7 “(2) identifying information regarding the pro-  
8 gram, project, or activity that is, in whole or in part,  
9 carried out using Federal funds.”.

10 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
11 The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 13 of  
12 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
13 end the following:

“1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds.”.

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