

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3528

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a program to facilitate the development of digital products for the public, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to carry out a program to facilitate the development of digital products for the public, 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 Opportunity Project  
5 Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Opportunity Project of the Department  
9 of Commerce is based on a process that engages the  
10 technology industry to create digital products that

1 expand economic opportunity for the people of the  
2 United States.

3 (2) The Opportunity Project facilitates cross-  
4 sector collaboration, makes Federal Government  
5 data more usable and accessible, and creates a posi-  
6 tive impact for families, communities, and busi-  
7 nesses.

8 (3) Since launching in 2016, The Opportunity  
9 Project has yielded dozens of new digital products,  
10 including products that connect veterans and their  
11 families with jobs, connect people experiencing  
12 homelessness with services and shelter, and rebuild  
13 rural economies.

14 (4) The Opportunity Project provides Federal  
15 agencies with new ways to use existing Federal data  
16 to solve problems and create innovative products by  
17 combining the skills and knowledge of Federal agen-  
18 cy personnel, end users, and technology experts.

19 (5) The process used by The Opportunity  
20 Project can be adopted by any Federal agency or  
21 non-Federal entity interested in transforming data  
22 into digital products for the public.

23 (6) The Opportunity Project is consistent with  
24 the President's cross-agency priority goal of  
25 leveraging data as a strategic asset.

1 **SEC. 3. THE OPPORTUNITY PROJECT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a  
3 program, to be known as “The Opportunity Project”, to  
4 facilitate the development of digital products for the public  
5 through collaboration between Federal agency personnel,  
6 end users, and technology experts.

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out The Oppor-  
8 tunity Project, the Secretary shall—

9 (1) provide regularly updated guidance on pri-  
10 orities for digital product development and objectives  
11 to be accomplished by the products developed; and

12 (2) facilitate—

13 (A) the identification of data that may be  
14 useful in the development of such products;

15 (B) the formation of teams of Federal  
16 agency personnel, end users, and technology ex-  
17 perts to develop such products; and

18 (C) a process that leads the teams through  
19 the development of a digital product or a min-  
20 imum viable technology product as a main com-  
21 ponent of the work associated with The Oppor-  
22 tunity Project as a program.

23 (c) SOURCES OF DATA.—Data identified under sub-  
24 section (b)(2)(A) may include the data of Federal agen-  
25 cies, States, political subdivisions of States, and private-  
26 sector entities.

1 (d) TOPIC SUBMISSIONS.—The Secretary shall estab-  
2 lish a process for a Federal agency to submit for consider-  
3 ation under The Opportunity Project a priority for digital  
4 product development or an objective to be accomplished  
5 by a digital product developed.

6 (e) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES  
7 AND STATES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter  
9 into an agreement (written, verbal, or informal) with  
10 a Federal agency, State, or political subdivision of a  
11 State to—

12 (A) provide for participation by employees  
13 of such agency, State, or political subdivision in  
14 digital product development conducted through  
15 The Opportunity Project; or

16 (B) make available employees of the De-  
17 partment of Commerce to assist in teaching and  
18 implementing the processes of The Opportunity  
19 Project for use in digital product development  
20 by such agency, State, or political subdivision.

21 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—An agreement entered  
22 into under paragraph (1) may provide for the reim-  
23 bursement to the Secretary for the services provided  
24 by employees of the Bureau of the Census under  
25 such agreement, as the Secretary and the Federal

1 agency, State, or political subdivision of a State (as  
2 the case may be) deems appropriate.

3 (f) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—The Secretary shall—

4 (1) develop metrics to track the performance of  
5 The Opportunity Project and the resulting products;  
6 and

7 (2) collect data to enable ongoing assessment of  
8 The Opportunity Project.

9 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually  
11 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
12 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
13 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
14 tation of the Senate a report on the performance of The  
15 Opportunity Project, including an assessment of the effec-  
16 tiveness of The Opportunity Project in—

17 (1) increasing the usability and accessibility of  
18 Federal data by the public; and

19 (2) increasing the use of Federal data by the  
20 public.

21 (h) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the  
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
23 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
24 assessing the effectiveness of The Opportunity Project  
25 in—

1           (1) increasing the usability and accessibility of  
2 Federal data by the public;

3           (2) increasing the use of Federal data by the  
4 public; and

5           (3) the impact of the resulting products on  
6 members of the public.

7 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8           (1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal  
9 agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”  
10 in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

11           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12 the Secretary of Commerce.

13           (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each  
14 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
15 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the  
16 United States, and each federally recognized Indian  
17 Tribe.

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