

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 355

To prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibility with respect to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2015

Mr. DUFFY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from relinquishing responsibility with respect to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions.

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 “Global Internet Free-
5 dom Act of 2015” or the “GIF Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On October 1, 2012, the National Tele-
2 communications and Information Administration of
3 the Department of Commerce entered into a con-
4 tract with the non-profit Internet Corporation for
5 Assigned Names and Numbers to administer the
6 Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions.

7 (2) On March 14, 2014, the National Tele-
8 communications and Information Administration an-
9 nounced its intention to transition key Internet do-
10 main name functions to the Internet Corporation for
11 Assigned Names and Numbers and the global multi-
12 stakeholder community.

13 (3) Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the
14 Constitution states that “[t]he Congress shall have
15 Power to dispose of . . . Property belonging to the
16 United States”.

17 (4) In a report issued in 2000, the Government
18 Accountability Office stated that “it is unclear if the
19 Department [of Commerce] has the requisite author-
20 ity” to transfer control of the Internet Assigned
21 Numbers Authority functions to a private entity.

22 **SEC. 3. NTIA PROHIBITED FROM RELINQUISHING RESPON-**
23 **SIBILITY FOR IANA FUNCTIONS.**

24 The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Commu-
25 nications and Information may not relinquish the respon-

1 sibility of the National Telecommunications and Informa-
2 tion Administration with respect to the Internet Assigned
3 Numbers Authority functions, including the following:

4 (1) Coordination of the assignment of technical
5 Internet protocol parameters.

6 (2) Performance of administrative functions as-
7 sociated with Internet domain name system root
8 zone management.

9 (3) Allocation of Internet numbering resources.

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