

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4328

To prohibit the consideration in the House of Representatives or Senate of the text of any legislation which has not been published online at least 72 hours prior to its consideration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2016

Mr. BRIDENSTINE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

A BILL

To prohibit the consideration in the House of Representatives or Senate of the text of any legislation which has not been published online at least 72 hours prior to its consideration, 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 “Read the Bill Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING TEXT OF LEGISLATION TO BE AVAIL-**
2 **ABLE PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE**
3 **OR SENATE.**

4 (a) **REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF TEXT.**—It shall not
5 be in order to consider any bill or resolution in the House
6 of Representatives (including the Committee of the Whole
7 House on the State of the Union) or Senate unless the
8 text of the bill or resolution to be considered, including
9 text made in order in the House (or the Committee of the
10 Whole) as a result of the adoption by the House of a reso-
11 lution providing for consideration of the bill or resolution,
12 is published on an official website of the Clerk of the
13 House or the Secretary of the Senate (as the case may
14 be) not fewer than the applicable minimum number of
15 hours prior to the consideration of the bill or resolution.

16 (b) **APPLICABLE MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this section,
18 the “applicable minimum number of hours” with re-
19 spect to the text of a bill or resolution is—

20 (A) in the case of text of 300 or fewer
21 pages, 72 hours; or

22 (B) in the case of text of more than 300
23 pages, the sum of 72 hours plus 24 hours for
24 each additional increment of text of 100 or
25 fewer pages.

1 (2) EXCLUDING HOURS DURING WHICH HOUSE
2 OR SENATE IS NOT IN SESSION.—In determining the
3 applicable number of hours under paragraph (1),
4 there shall be excluded any hour during which the
5 House of Representatives is not in session (in the
6 case of a bill or resolution in the House) or any hour
7 during which the Senate is not in session (in the
8 case of a bill or resolution in the Senate).

9 (c) NO WAIVER OR MODIFICATION.—Neither House
10 of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolu-
11 tion, unanimous consent, or any other order, resolution,
12 vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise
13 waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.

14 **SEC. 3. RULES FOR SHOWING AMENDMENTS MADE TO EX-**
15 **ISTING LAW BY BILLS OR JOINT RESOLU-**
16 **TIONS.**

17 (a) MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN COMMITTEE RE-
18 PORTS.—Whenever a committee of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives or Senate reports a bill or joint resolution pro-
20 posing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof, it
21 shall include in its report or in an accompanying docu-
22 ment—

23 (1) the entire text of each section of a statute
24 that is proposed to be repealed or amended; and

1 (2) a comparative print of each amendment to
2 a section of a statute that the bill or joint resolution
3 proposes to make, showing by appropriate typo-
4 graphical devices the omissions and insertions pro-
5 posed.

6 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPARATIVE PRINT.—If a
7 committee of the House of Representatives or Senate re-
8 ports a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or
9 amend a statute or part thereof with a recommendation
10 that the bill or joint resolution be amended, the compara-
11 tive print required by subsection (a) shall reflect the
12 changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill
13 or joint resolution as proposed to be amended.

14 (c) PROHIBITING CONSIDERATION OF REPORTED
15 BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS FAILING TO MEET RE-
16 QUIREMENTS.—It shall not be in order to consider any
17 bill or joint resolution in the House of Representatives (in-
18 cluding the Committee of the Whole House on the State
19 of the Union) or Senate which is reported by a committee
20 if the committee does not meet the requirements of sub-
21 section (a) or (b) with respect to the bill or joint resolu-
22 tion.

23 (d) NO WAIVER OR MODIFICATION.—Neither House
24 of Congress, nor Congress jointly, by concurrent resolu-
25 tion, unanimous consent, or any other order, resolution,

1 vote, or other means, may dispense with, or otherwise
2 waive or modify, the requirements set forth in this section.

3 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

4 (a) NO LEGAL EFFECT FOR ACTS OF CONGRESS
5 FAILING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS.—An Act of Congress
6 that was considered as a bill or resolution in the House
7 of Representatives or Senate in violation of the applicable
8 requirements of section 2 or 3 shall have no force or effect,
9 and no legal, equitable, regulatory, civil, or criminal action
10 may be brought under such an Act of Congress.

11 (b) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Without regard to the
12 amount in controversy, a cause of action under sections
13 2201 and 2202 of title 28, United States Code, against
14 the United States seeking appropriate relief (including an
15 injunction against enforcement of any Act of Congress the
16 consideration of which was in violation of the applicable
17 requirements of section 2 or 3) may be brought by—

18 (1) a person aggrieved by an action of an offi-
19 cer or employee in the executive branch of the Fed-
20 eral Government under such an Act of Congress;
21 and

22 (2) a Member of Congress aggrieved by the con-
23 sideration of a bill or resolution in violation of such
24 applicable requirements by the House of Congress in
25 which the Member serves.

1 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall apply with respect to any bill or resolu-
3 tion considered in the House of Representatives or Senate
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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