

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1636

To streamline the collection and distribution of Government information.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2015

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. PERDUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To streamline the collection and distribution of Government information.

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 “Just Google It Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The National Technical Information Service
8 (referred to in this Act as “NTIS”), the National
9 Archives and Records Administration, the Govern-
10 ment Accountability Office (referred to in this sec-

1 tion as “GAO”), and the Library of Congress are all
2 tasked with collecting, categorizing, and distributing
3 Government publications to the public.

4 (2) GAO has found that—

5 (A) NTIS costs have exceeded its revenues
6 during a recent 11-year period by an average of
7 \$1,300,000 per year; and

8 (B) of the reports in the NTIS repository
9 that are available elsewhere, 95 percent are
10 available for free and most could be found using
11 a web search engine like google.com.

12 (3) NTIS is a relic of the pre-Internet era and
13 duplicates the products and services offered by mul-
14 tiple Government agencies.

15 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE.**

16 (a) REPEAL.—Effective on the date that is 1 year
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National
18 Technical Information Act of 1988 (subtitle B of title II
19 of Public Law 100–519; 15 U.S.C. 3704b) is repealed.

20 (b) TRANSFER OF CRITICAL FUNCTIONS.—

21 (1) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
22 retary of Commerce, the Archivist of the United
23 States, the Comptroller General of the United
24 States, and the Commissioner of Social Security
25 shall consult with the Director of the Office of Man-

1 agement and Budget to determine if any function of
2 NTIS is critical to the economy of the United
3 States.

4 (2) GAO CERTIFICATION.—The Comptroller
5 General of the United States shall determine which
6 of the critical functions identified pursuant to para-
7 graph (1) are not being carried out by any other
8 agency or instrumentality of the Federal Govern-
9 ment.

10 (3) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
12 subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Commerce,
13 before the effective date set forth in subsection
14 (a), may transfer the responsibility for any crit-
15 ical function of NTIS (as identified under para-
16 graph (1)) that is not otherwise being carried
17 out (as determined under paragraph (2)) to an-
18 other office within the Department of Com-
19 merce.

20 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not
21 transfer any fee-based services offered by NTIS
22 to another office within the Department of
23 Commerce.

24 (4) SERVICES BY CONTRACTOR.—If fee-based
25 services determined to be critical to the economy of

1 the United States under paragraph (1) are being
2 carried out by a contractor through a contract with
3 NTIS, such contract may not be renewed, but the
4 Federal agency receiving such services, or the Gen-
5 eral Service Administration, may enter into a new
6 contract with the contractor or another qualified en-
7 tity to continue such services after the expiration of
8 the contract with NTIS.

9 (c) ABOLITION OF FUNCTIONS.—Except for the func-
10 tions transferred pursuant to subsection (b), all functions
11 of the NTIS immediately before the repeal date described
12 in subsection (a) are abolished on such repeal date.

13 (d) TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES.—Not
14 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with
16 the Secretary of Commerce, shall—

17 (1) transfer all unexpended balances in the Na-
18 tional Technical Information Service Revolving
19 Fund, established pursuant to the Department of
20 Commerce Appropriations Act, 1993 (15 U.S.C.
21 3704b note), to the general fund of the Treasury for
22 the purpose of deficit reduction; and

23 (2) after the transfer is completed pursuant to
24 paragraph (1), dissolve the National Technical Infor-
25 mation Service Revolving Fund.

1 **SEC. 4. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE CERTIFICATION.**

2 Before the effective date set forth in section 3(a), the
3 Secretary of Commerce shall submit a written certification
4 to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Com-
5 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives that all of the operations of the National
7 Technical Information Service have been terminated.

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