

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 760

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 2021

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require recipients of Federal funds to disclose information relating to programs, projects, or activities carried out using the 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 2021” or the “COST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF**
2 **FEDERAL 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 recipients of**
7 **Federal funds**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual or entity (includ-
9 ing a State or local government and a recipient of a Fed-
10 eral research grant) carrying out a program, project, or
11 activity that is, in whole or in part, carried out using Fed-
12 eral funds shall clearly state in any statement, press re-
13 lease, request for proposals, bid solicitation, or other docu-
14 ment describing the program, project, or activity, other
15 than a communication containing not more than 280 char-
16 acters—

17 “(1) the percentage of the total costs of the
18 program, project, or activity which will be financed
19 with Federal funds;

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

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

1 “(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Director of the Office
2 of Management and Budget determines that an individual
3 or entity is failing to comply with subsection (a), the Di-
4 rector may direct the head of each agency providing Fed-
5 eral funds to the individual or entity to withhold not more
6 than 25 percent of the amount of Federal funds that
7 would otherwise be provided to the individual or entity,
8 until the date on which the individual or entity complies
9 with subsection (a).”.

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 recipients of Federal funds.”.

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