

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4682

To minimize the disruption of Government and private sector operations
caused by the Year 2000 computer problem.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 1998

Mr. BARCIA (for himself, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BROWN of California, Mrs. CAPPES, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TRAFICANT, Ms. LEE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To minimize the disruption of Government and private sector
operations caused by the Year 2000 computer problem.

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 “Year 2000 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) Electronic data exchanges are used exten-
8 sively to transfer information between computer sys-
9 tems. Federal agencies now depend on electronic

1 data exchanges to execute programs and facilitate
2 commerce. Consequently, as computer systems are
3 converted to process Year 2000 dates, the associated
4 data exchanges must also be made Year 2000 com-
5 pliant.

6 (2) The testing and implementation of new data
7 exchanges must be closely coordinated with exchange
8 partners to be completed effectively. If Year 2000
9 data exchanges do not function properly, data will
10 not be exchanged between systems, or invalid data
11 could cause receiving computer systems to malfunc-
12 tion or produce inaccurate computations.

13 (3) The United States 381,000 small manufac-
14 turers contribute more than half of the country's
15 total value in manufacturing. However, as of 1997,
16 88 percent of all companies with fewer than 2,000
17 employees had not yet started Year 2000 remedi-
18 ation projects.

19 (4) As small manufacturers are an integral part
20 of the business supply chain, it is imperative that
21 their computer systems are Year 2000 compliant to
22 prevent disruption to the country's manufacturing
23 base.

24 (5) The economic well being of the United
25 States is interdependent with the economic well

1 being of other nations of the world. There is very lit-
2 tle information on the level of Year 2000 prepared-
3 ness by other countries and the potential impact on
4 the United States economy. Therefore, to prevent
5 economic disruption in the United States, the Year
6 2000 computer problem must be addressed on a
7 global scale.

8 (6) Consumer awareness of the potential and
9 extent of failure of computer hardware, software,
10 and embedded microchips found in many consumer
11 products resulting from the Year 2000 problem is
12 small.

13 (7) Currently, there is no information to guide
14 consumers in the purchase of Year 2000 compliant
15 consumer goods or to ensure that their existing
16 goods are Year 2000 complaint.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 For purposes of this Act—

19 (1) the term “end-to-end testing” means testing
20 data exchange software with respect to—

21 (A) the initiation of the exchange by send-
22 ing computers;

23 (B) transmission through intermediate
24 communications software and hardware; and

1 (C) receipt and acceptance by receiving
2 computers;

3 (2) the term “small and medium-sized busi-
4 nesses” means businesses with less than 500 em-
5 ployees;

6 (3) the term “Year 2000 compliant” means,
7 with respect to information technology, that the in-
8 formation technology accurately processes (including
9 calculating, comparing, and sequencing) date and
10 time data from, into, and between the 20th and 21st
11 centuries and the years 1999 and 2000, and leap
12 year calculations, to the extent that other informa-
13 tion technology properly exchanges date and time
14 data with it; and

15 (4) the term “Year 2000 computer problem”
16 means the potential problems that might be encoun-
17 tered in any level of computer hardware and soft-
18 ware from microcode to application programs, files,
19 and databases that need to correctly interpret year
20 date data represented in 2-digit-year format.

21 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS.**

22 To ensure that all computer operations and process-
23 ing can be provided without interruption by Federal agen-
24 cies after December 31, 1999, the head of each Federal
25 agency shall—

1 (1) take actions necessary to ensure that all
2 systems and hardware administered by the agency
3 are Year 2000 compliant, to the extent necessary to
4 ensure that no significant disruption of the oper-
5 ations of the agency or of the agency's data ex-
6 change partners occurs, including—

7 (A) establishing, before March 1, 1999,
8 schedules for testing and implementing new
9 data exchange formats for completing all data
10 exchange corrections, which may include na-
11 tional test days for end-to-end testing of critical
12 processes and associated data exchanges affect-
13 ing Federal, State, and local governments;

14 (B) notifying data exchange partners of
15 the implications to the agency and the exchange
16 partners if they do not make appropriate date
17 conversion corrections in time to meet the Fed-
18 eral schedule for implementing and testing Year
19 2000 compliant data exchange processes;

20 (C) giving priority to installing filters nec-
21 essary to prevent the corruption of mission-crit-
22 ical systems from data exchanges with non-
23 compliant systems; and

24 (D) developing and implementing, as part
25 of the agency's continuity and contingency plan-

1 ning efforts, specific provisions for data ex-
2 changes that may fail, including strategies to
3 mitigate operational disruptions if data ex-
4 change partners do not make timely date con-
5 version corrections;

6 (2) beginning not later than 30 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, convene meetings
8 at least quarterly with representatives of the agen-
9 cy's data exchange partners to assess implementa-
10 tion progress; and

11 (3) after each meeting convened pursuant to
12 paragraph (2), transmit to the Congress a report
13 summarizing—

14 (A) the results of that meeting; and

15 (B) the status of the agency's completion
16 of key data exchange corrections, including the
17 extent of data exchange inventoried, an assess-
18 ment of data exchange formats agreed to with
19 data exchange partners, testing and implemen-
20 tation schedules, and testing and implementa-
21 tion completed.

22 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-**
23 **NESSES.**

24 To ensure that the Nation's small and medium-sized
25 businesses are prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer

1 problem challenge, the National Institute of Standards
2 and Technology, in conjunction with the Small Business
3 Administration, shall develop a Year 2000 compliance out-
4 reach program to assist small and medium-sized busi-
5 nesses. Such program shall include—

6 (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-
7 ment checklist;

8 (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer
9 problem and an identification of best practices for
10 resolving the problem;

11 (3) a list of Federal Government Year 2000 in-
12 formation resources; and

13 (4) a list of Year 2000 compliant products pro-
14 vided by the General Services Administration.

15 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT.**

16 Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Tech-
18 nology, in conjunction with other relevant Federal agen-
19 cies, shall transmit to the Congress a report assessing the
20 international implications of the Year 2000 computer
21 problem. Such report shall include—

22 (1) an assessment of Year 2000 compliance by
23 the United States major trading partners;

24 (2) a description of efforts by the United States
25 to share best practices with other countries;

1 (3) the economic implications on world trade
2 and the United States economy of the Year 2000
3 computer problem, including an identification of im-
4 pacted United States industrial sectors and Federal
5 agencies; and

6 (4) a summary of participation by Federal
7 agencies in international fora addressing the Year
8 2000 computer problem.

9 **SEC. 7. CONSUMER AWARENESS.**

10 To ensure that the Nation's consumers are aware of
11 and prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer problem
12 challenge, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Tech-
13 nology shall develop a Year 2000 consumer awareness pro-
14 gram to assist the public in becoming aware of the impli-
15 cations of the Year 2000 computer problem. Such pro-
16 gram shall include—

17 (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-
18 ment checklist;

19 (2) a list of Federal Government Year 2000
20 computer problem information resources;

21 (3) a list of Year 2000 compliant products pro-
22 vided by the General Services Administration;

23 (4) a series of public awareness announcements
24 or seminars on the impact of the Year 2000 com-

1 puter problem on consumer products and services;
2 and

3 (5) a series of public awareness announcements
4 or seminars on the potential effect that the Year
5 2000 computer problem could have on the provision
6 of services by the Federal Government to the public,
7 and the progress made in resolving the problem by
8 the Federal agencies providing those services.

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