

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4756

To ensure that the United States is prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer problem.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. LEACH, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. LAFALCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To ensure that the United States is prepared to meet 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 Prepared-
5 ness Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act—

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

1 (A) the initiation of the exchange by send-
2 ing computers;

3 (B) transmission through intermediate
4 communications software and hardware; and

5 (C) receipt and acceptance by receiving
6 computers;

7 (2) the term “small and medium-sized busi-
8 nesses” means businesses with less than 500 em-
9 ployees;

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

19 (4) the term “Year 2000 computer problem”
20 means, with respect to information technology, any
21 problem which prevents such technology from accu-
22 rately processing, calculating, comparing, or se-
23 quencing date or time data—

24 (A) from, into, or between—

25 (i) the 20th and 21st centuries; or

1 (ii) the years 1999 and 2000;

2 (B) with regard to leap year calculations;

3 or

4 (C) with regard to such other dates as the
5 Year 2000 Conversion Council may identify and
6 designate; and

7 (5) the term “Year 2000 Conversion Council”
8 means the President’s Council on Year 2000 Conver-
9 sion established under section 2 of Executive Order
10 No. 13073, issued on February 4, 1998;

11 **SEC. 3. CRITICAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES.**

12 The President shall provide for the acceleration of the
13 development of business continuity plans by Federal agen-
14 cies necessary to ensure the uninterrupted delivery by
15 those agencies of critical mission-related services.

16 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of the Congress that the President
18 should—

19 (1) take a high profile national leadership posi-
20 tion to aggressively promote Year 2000 date change
21 awareness for information technology systems and
22 sensitive infrastructure applications; and

23 (2) authorize the Chairperson of the Year 2000
24 Conversion Council to take control of any critical
25 Federal agency system that is in jeopardy because of

1 ineffective management of not meeting the January
2 1, 2000, deadline with respect to the Year 2000
3 computer problem.

4 **SEC. 5. MONTHLY REPORTS.**

5 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
6 et shall transmit to the Congress a monthly report assess-
7 ing critical Federal information systems that will not, or
8 may not, meet the Year 2000 computer problem deadline,
9 and the anticipated consequences of those failures. Such
10 report shall include a description of the status of business
11 continuity plans for systems identified as being in jeop-
12 ardy. The Director, in consultation with the Congress,
13 shall establish additional reporting criteria for areas such
14 as embedded systems and external data exchange.

15 **SEC. 6. AGENCY REPORTS.**

16 All Federal agency reports to the Office of Manage-
17 ment and Budget relating to the Year 2000 computer
18 problem shall be concurrently transmitted to the Congress.

19 **SEC. 7. GUIDELINES.**

20 The Chairperson of the Year 2000 Conversion Coun-
21 cil shall develop, in consultation with industry, guidelines
22 of best practices and standards for remediation and vali-
23 dation with respect to the Year 2000 computer problem
24 to provide better direction for government and private sec-
25 tor efforts.

1 **SEC. 8. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF YEAR 2000 COMPUTER**
2 **PROBLEM.**

3 Before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairperson of the
5 Year 2000 Conversion Council shall submit to the Con-
6 gress a national assessment of the Year 2000 computer
7 problem covering all critical national infrastructures and
8 key sectors of the economy, including banking and finance,
9 energy, telecommunications, transportation, and vital
10 human services which protect the public health and safety,
11 the water supply, housing and public buildings, and the
12 environment.

13 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS YEAR 2000 COM-**
14 **PUTER PROBLEM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the spirit of the
16 Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the
17 Chairperson of the Year 2000 Conversion Council, in con-
18 sultation with the President’s Council on Infrastructure
19 Assurance, officers of the Federal Government and of
20 State and local governments, and representatives of the
21 private sector, shall prepare, and submit to the Congress
22 with the assessment required under section 8, a national
23 strategy to assure that the critical infrastructures and key
24 sectors of the economy described in section 8 will be pre-
25 pared for the Year 2000 date change.

1 (b) STRATEGY TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy pre-
2 pared pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, for each
3 sector, mission statement, goals, and objectives. It should
4 also indicate performance measures and milestones for
5 achieving the objectives.

6 **SEC. 10. QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS REQUIRED.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after the submission of
8 the report on the national assessment and strategy under
9 sections 8 and 9, the Chairperson of the Year 2000 Con-
10 version Council shall submit quarterly reports to the Con-
11 gress on the progress that has been made since the sub-
12 mission of the prior report in solving the Year 2000 com-
13 puter problem in all critical infrastructures and key sec-
14 tors of the economy and in developing contingency plans.

15 (b) FINAL REPORT.—The final report submitted
16 under subsection (a) shall assess the ongoing Year 2000
17 and other date-related problems that will occur in the fu-
18 ture as temporary Year 2000 renovations lapse or other
19 fail dates occur in computer systems.

20 (c) SUNSET.—No reports shall be required under
21 subsection (a) after December 31, 2001.

22 **SEC. 11. FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS.**

23 To ensure that all computer operations and process-
24 ing can be provided without interruption by Federal agen-

1 cies after December 31, 1999, the head of each Federal
2 agency shall—

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

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

16 (B) notifying data exchange partners of
17 the implications to the agency and the exchange
18 partners if they do not make appropriate date
19 conversion corrections in time to meet the Fed-
20 eral schedule for implementing and testing Year
21 2000 compliant data exchange processes;

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

1 (D) developing and implementing, as part
2 of the agency's continuity and contingency plan-
3 ning efforts, specific provisions for data ex-
4 changes that may fail, including strategies to
5 mitigate operational disruptions if data ex-
6 change partners do not make timely date con-
7 version corrections;

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

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

16 (A) the results of that meeting; and

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

1 **SEC. 12. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSI-**
2 **NESSES.**

3 To ensure that the Nation's small and medium-sized
4 businesses are prepared to meet the Year 2000 computer
5 problem challenge, the National Institute of Standards
6 and Technology, in conjunction with the Small Business
7 Administration, shall develop a Year 2000 compliance out-
8 reach program to assist small and medium-sized busi-
9 nesses. Such program shall include—

10 (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-
11 ment checklist;

12 (2) an explanation of the Year 2000 computer
13 problem and an identification of best practices for
14 resolving the problem;

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

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

19 **SEC. 13. INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT.**

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

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

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

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

10 (4) a summary of participation by Federal
11 agencies in international fora addressing the Year
12 2000 computer problem.

13 **SEC. 14. CONSUMER AWARENESS.**

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

21 (1) the development of a Year 2000 self-assess-
22 ment checklist;

23 (2) a list of Federal Government Year 2000
24 computer problem information resources;

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

3 (4) a series of public awareness announcements
4 or seminars on the impact of the Year 2000 com-
5 puter problem on consumer products and services;
6 and

7 (5) a series of public awareness announcements
8 or seminars on the potential effect that the Year
9 2000 computer problem could have on the provision
10 of services by the Federal Government to the public,
11 and the progress made in resolving the problem by
12 the Federal agencies providing those services.

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