

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 855

To provide for greater responsiveness by Federal agencies in contacts with the public, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 1997

Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. HUTCHINSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide for greater responsiveness by Federal agencies in contacts with the public, 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. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIVENESS TO THE**
4 **PUBLIC.**

5 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
6 “Responsive Government Act”.

7 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act, the term—

8 (1) “agency” means an Executive agency as de-
9 fined under section 105 of title 5, United States
10 Code;

1 (2) “office” means each place of business that
2 an agency conducts official business of the United
3 States, other than a temporary location; and

4 (3) “service oriented office” means an office
5 where a substantial part of agency business includes
6 services provided to the public through visits to the
7 office by the public.

8 (c) AGENCY TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH
9 THE PUBLIC.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
10 enactment of this Act, each agency shall prescribe regula-
11 tions that—

12 (1) require each office of the agency which has
13 contact with the public to—

14 (A) ensure that the telephone number for
15 the office is published in an appropriate tele-
16 phone directory widely available to the local
17 public;

18 (B)(i) provide a person to answer the tele-
19 phone line through which the office makes ini-
20 tial contact with the public;

21 (ii) prohibit the use of any electronic, com-
22 puter, or mechanical device to answer such tele-
23 phone line, except in an office in which there is
24 1 employee; and

1 (iii) provide for the answering of such tele-
2 phone line until 5:00 p.m. (according to the
3 time zone in which the office is located) for
4 each day that the office is conducting official
5 business; and

6 (2) require all correspondence originating from
7 the agency to include the official telephone number
8 of the person sending the correspondence.

9 (d) ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKING AT SERVICE ORI-
10 ENTED OFFICES.—To the greatest extent practicable and
11 economically feasible, the head of each agency shall estab-
12 lish the location of each service oriented office in an area
13 with parking facilities accessible to the public.

14 (e) PROHIBITION OF COMPUTER GAME PROGRAMS.—

15 (1) REMOVAL OF EXISTING COMPUTER GAME
16 PROGRAMS.—Not later than 180 days after the date
17 of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency
18 shall take such actions as necessary to remove any
19 computer game program not required for the official
20 business of the agency from any agency computer
21 equipment.

22 (2) PROHIBITION OF INSTALLATION OF COM-
23 PUTER GAME PROGRAMS.—The head of each agency
24 shall prohibit the installation of any computer game

1 program not required for the official business of the
 2 agency into any agency computer equipment.

3 (3) PROHIBITION OF AGENCY ACCEPTANCE OF
 4 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WITH COMPUTER GAME PRO-
 5 GRAMS.—

6 (A) PROHIBITION.—Title III of the Fed-
 7 eral Property and Administrative Services Act
 8 of 1949 is amended by adding at the end the
 9 following:

10 **“SEC. 317. MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITIONS AND OTHER RE-**
 11 **STRICTIONS.**

12 “The head of an executive agency may not accept de-
 13 livery of computer equipment that is loaded with game
 14 programs not required for an official purpose under the
 15 terms of the contract under which the equipment is deliv-
 16 ered.”.

17 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
 18 contents in section 2(b) of such Act is amended
 19 by inserting after the item relating to section
 20 316 the following:

“Sec. 317. Miscellaneous prohibitions and other restrictions.”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 this paragraph shall take effect 180 days after the date
 23 of enactment of this Act.

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