

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 725

To amend the Paperwork Reduction Act and titles 5 and 31, United States Code, to reform Federal paperwork and regulatory processes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend the Paperwork Reduction Act and titles 5 and 31, United States Code, to reform Federal paperwork and regulatory processes.

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 “Paperwork and Regu-
5 latory Improvements Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1980, in the Paperwork Reduction Act,
9 Congress established the Office of Information and
10 Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Manage-

1 ment and Budget. OIRA's principal responsibility is
2 to reduce the paperwork burden on the public that
3 results from the collection of information by or for
4 the Federal Government. In 2002, OIRA estimated
5 that the paperwork burden imposed on the public
6 was 7.7 billion hours, at a cost of \$230 billion. The
7 Internal Revenue Service accounted for 83 percent
8 of the paperwork burden.

9 (2) In 1995, Congress amended the Paperwork
10 Reduction Act and established annual government-
11 wide paperwork reduction goals of 10 percent for
12 each of fiscal years 1996 and 1997, and 5 percent
13 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2001, but the
14 paperwork burden increased, rather than decreased,
15 in each of those fiscal years and fiscal year 2002.
16 Both the Office of Management and Budget and the
17 Internal Revenue Service need to devote additional
18 attention to paperwork reduction.

19 (3) In 2002, the House Report accompanying
20 the Treasury and General Government Appropria-
21 tions Act, 2003 (House Report 107-575) stated,
22 "The Office of Management and Budget has re-
23 ported that paperwork burdens on Americans have
24 increased in each of the last six years. Since the In-
25 ternal Revenue Service imposes over 80 percent of

1 these paperwork burdens, the Committee believes
2 that OMB should work to identify and review pro-
3 posed and existing IRS paperwork.”.

4 (4) One key to success in paperwork reduction
5 is the Office of Management and Budget’s system-
6 atic review of every new and revised agency paper-
7 work proposal. Recent statutory exemptions from
8 that office’s review responsibility, especially those
9 without any stated justification, should be removed.

10 (5) In 2000, researchers Mark Crain of George
11 Mason University and Thomas Hopkins of the Roch-
12 ester Institute of Technology, in their October 2001
13 publication titled “The Impact of Regulatory Costs
14 on Small Firms”, estimated that Americans spend
15 \$843 billion annually to comply with Federal regula-
16 tions. Congress has a responsibility to review major
17 rules (as defined by section 804 of title 5, United
18 States Code) proposed by agencies, especially regu-
19 latory alternatives and the costs and benefits associ-
20 ated with each of them. In 2000, in the Truth in
21 Regulating Act, Congress established new responsi-
22 bility within the General Accounting Office to assist
23 Congress with this responsibility.

24 (6) In 1996, because of the increasing costs and
25 incompletely estimated benefits of Federal rules and

1 paperwork, Congress required the Office of Manage-
2 ment and Budget for the first time to submit an an-
3 nual report to Congress on the total costs and bene-
4 fits to the public of Federal rules and paperwork re-
5 quirements, including an assessment of the effects of
6 Federal rules on the private sector and State and
7 local governments. In 1998, Congress changed the
8 annual report's due date to coincide with the due
9 date of the President's budget, so that Congress and
10 the public could be given an opportunity to simulta-
11 neously review both the on-budget and off-budget
12 costs associated with the regulatory and paperwork
13 requirements of each Federal agency. In 2000, Con-
14 gress made this a permanent annual reporting re-
15 quirement.

16 (7) The Office of Management and Budget re-
17 quires agencies to submit annual budget and paper-
18 work burden estimates in order to prepare certain
19 required reports for Congress, but it does not re-
20 quire agencies to submit estimates on costs and ben-
21 efits of agency rules and paperwork. The Office of
22 Management and Budget needs to require agencies
23 to submit such estimates on costs and benefits to
24 help prepare the annual accounting statement and
25 associated report required under section 624 of the

1 Treasury and General Government Appropriations
2 Act, 2001.

3 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF TAX PAPERWORK.**

4 Section 3504 of title 44, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 section:

7 “(i) In carrying out subsection (c)(3), the Director
8 shall (in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service
9 and the Office of Tax Policy of the Department of the
10 Treasury and the Office of Advocacy of the Small Busi-
11 ness Administration) conduct a review of the collections
12 of information conducted by the Internal Revenue Service
13 to identify actions that the Internal Revenue Service can
14 take to reduce the information collection burden imposed
15 on small business concerns, consistent with section
16 3520(c)(1) of this chapter. The Director shall include the
17 results of the review in the annual report that the Director
18 submits under section 3514 of this chapter for fiscal year
19 2006.”.

20 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF EXEMPTIONS FROM PAPERWORK RE-**
21 **DUCTION ACT, ETC.**

22 (a) REPEALS.—The following provisions of the Farm
23 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law
24 107–171) are repealed:

1 (1) Subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section
2 1601(e)(2).

3 (2) Section 1601(e)(3).

4 (3) Section 2702(b)(1)(A).

5 (4) Section 2702(b)(2)(A).

6 (5) Section 2702(c).

7 (6) Subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section
8 6103(b)(2).

9 (7) Section 6103(b)(3).

10 (8) Subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section
11 10105(d)(2).

12 (9) Section 10105(d)(3).

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeals of the provisions
14 listed in subsection (a) shall take effect 180 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENT OF TRUTH IN REGULATING ACT TO**
17 **MAKE PERMANENT PILOT PROJECT FOR RE-**
18 **PORT ON RULES.**

19 (a) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—The purpose of this
20 section is to make permanent the authority to request the
21 performance of regulatory analysis to enhance Congres-
22 sional responsibility for regulatory decisions developed
23 under the laws enacted by Congress. The Truth in Regu-
24 lating Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–312; 5 U.S.C. 801
25 note) is amended—

1 (1) in the heading for section 4, by striking
2 **“PILOT PROJECT FOR”**,

3 (2) in section 5, by striking “\$5,200,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2000 through 2002” and insert-
5 ing “\$5,000,000 for each fiscal year beginning after
6 September 30, 2004”; and

7 (3) in section 6—

8 (A) in the heading, by striking **“AND DU-
9 RATION OF PILOT PROJECT”**;

10 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) EF-
11 FECTIVE DATE.—”; and

12 (C) by striking subsections (b) and (c).

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the
15 enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. IMPROVED REGULATORY ACCOUNTING.**

17 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO SUBMIT IN-
18 FORMATION ON REGULATIONS AND PAPERWORK TO
19 OMB.—Section 624 of the Treasury and General Govern-
20 ment Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by
21 Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A–161), is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
24 (d) as subsection (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
2 lowing new subsection:

3 “(b) AGENCY SUBMISSIONS TO OMB.—To carry out
4 subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management
5 and Budget shall require each agency annually to submit
6 to the Office of Management and Budget an estimate of
7 the total annual costs and benefits of Federal rules and
8 paperwork, to the extent feasible—

9 “(1) for the agency in the aggregate; and

10 “(2) for each agency program.”.

11 (b) REGULATORY BUDGETING.—(1) Chapter 11 of
12 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
13 end the following new section:

14 **“§ 1120. Regulatory budgeting**

15 “(a) The Director of the Office of Management and
16 Budget, after consultation with the head of each agency,
17 shall designate not less than three agencies (or offices
18 within an agency) to participate in a study on regulatory
19 budgeting for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The designated
20 agencies shall include three regulatory agencies or offices
21 from among the following: the Department of Labor, the
22 Department of Transportation, the Department of Health
23 and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection
24 Agency.

1 “(b) The study shall address the preparation of regu-
2 latory budgets. Such budgets shall include the presen-
3 tation of the varying estimated levels of benefits that
4 would be associated with the different estimated levels of
5 costs with respect to the regulatory alternatives under con-
6 sideration by the agency (or office within the agency).

7 “(c) The Director of the Office of Management and
8 Budget shall include, in the accounting statement and as-
9 sociated report submitted to Congress for calendar year
10 2006 under section 624 of the Treasury and General Gov-
11 ernment Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law
12 by Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A–161), a presen-
13 tation of the different levels of estimated regulatory bene-
14 fits and costs with respect to the regulatory alternatives
15 under consideration for one or more of the major regu-
16 latory programs of each of the agencies designated under
17 subsection (a).

18 “(d) In the accounting statement and associated re-
19 port submitted to Congress for calendar year 2009 under
20 section 624 of the Treasury and General Government Ap-
21 propriations Act, 2001 (as so enacted), the Director of the
22 Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with
23 the Committees on the Budget and on Government Re-
24 form of the House of Representatives and the Committees
25 on the Budget and on Governmental Affairs of the Senate,

1 shall include a report on the study on regulatory budg-
2 eting. The report shall—

3 “(1) assess the feasibility and advisability of in-
4 cluding a regulatory budget as part of the annual
5 budget submitted under section 1105;

6 “(2) describe any difficulties encountered by the
7 Office of Management and Budget and the partici-
8 pating agencies in conducting the study; and

9 “(3) recommend, to the extent the President
10 considers necessary or expedient, proposed legisla-
11 tion regarding regulatory budgets.

12 “(e) The report on the study on regulatory budgeting
13 required under subsection (d) shall also be submitted di-
14 rectly to the Committees on the Budget and on Govern-
15 ment Reform of the House of Representatives and the
16 Committees on the Budget and on Governmental Affairs
17 of the Senate.”.

18 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
19 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following
20 new item:

“1120. Regulatory budgeting.”.

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