

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 6956, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6956

To require electronically prepared tax returns to include scannable code when submitted on paper, and to require the use of optical character recognition technology for paper documents received by the Internal Revenue Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2026

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. YAKYM) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To require electronically prepared tax returns to include scannable code when submitted on paper, and to require the use of optical character recognition technology for paper documents received by the Internal Revenue Service.

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 “Barcode Automation
5 for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and En-

1 hance Efficiency Act” or the “BARCODE Efficiency
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. SCANNING AND DIGITIZATION OF TAX RETURNS**
4 **AND CORRESPONDENCE.**

5 (a) RETURNS PREPARED ELECTRONICALLY AND
6 SUBMITTED ON PAPER.—With respect to any Federal tax
7 return which is prepared electronically, but is printed and
8 filed on paper—

9 (1) such return shall be formatted in a manner
10 that is compatible with the scanning technology re-
11 ferred to in paragraph (2), and

12 (2) subject to subsection (b)(1)(B), the Internal
13 Revenue Service shall use scanning technology to
14 convert the data included in such return to elec-
15 tronic format.

16 (b) OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SOFT-
17 WARE.—With respect to—

18 (1) any Federal tax return which—

19 (A) is not prepared electronically and is
20 printed and filed on paper, or

21 (B) is described in subsection (a)(1) but,
22 for any reason, the data included in such return
23 cannot be accurately converted into electronic
24 format, or

1 (2) any correspondence which is received by the
2 Internal Revenue Service in a paper form (with the
3 exception of any such correspondence which has
4 been received by the Internal Revenue Service in
5 electronic format),

6 the Internal Revenue Service shall use optical character
7 recognition technology (or any functionally similar tech-
8 nology) to transcribe such return or correspondence.

9 (c) EXCEPTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) or (b) shall
11 not apply to the extent that the Secretary of the
12 Treasury or the Secretary's delegate determines that
13 the technology described in such subsection is slower
14 or less reliable than—

15 (A) the process of manually transcribing
16 returns or correspondence received in a paper
17 form, or

18 (B) any other process that the Internal
19 Revenue Service is using or would otherwise
20 use.

21 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Any exception to
22 the application of subsection (a) or (b) pursuant to
23 paragraph (1) shall not take effect unless the Sec-
24 retary provides a report to the Committee on Ways
25 and Means of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Finance of the Senate regarding the
2 determination made under such paragraph within 30
3 days of such determination.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to—

5 (1) any individual income tax return (as defined
6 in section 6011(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue
7 Code of 1986) received on or after January 1 of the
8 first calendar year beginning more than 180 days
9 after the date of enactment of this Act,

10 (2) any estate tax return (as described in sec-
11 tion 6018 of such Code) or gift tax return (as de-
12 scribed in section 6019 of such Code) received on or
13 after January 1 of the first calendar year beginning
14 more than 24 months after the date of enactment of
15 this Act, and

16 (3) any other return or correspondence received
17 on or after January 1 of the first calendar year be-
18 ginning more than 18 months after the date of en-
19 actment of this Act.