

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5301

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 29, 2023

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself and Mr. GROTHMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Eliminate Useless Re-  
5 ports Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United  
3 States Code, is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
5 section (d);

6 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-  
7 serting the following:

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—  
10 The term ‘budget justification materials’ has the  
11 meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the  
12 Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency  
13 Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109–  
14 282).

15 “(2) RECURRING PLAN OR REPORT.—The term  
16 ‘recurring plan or report’—

17 “(A) means any plan or report submitted  
18 to Congress by not less than 1 agency on a re-  
19 curring basis—

20 “(i) in accordance with Federal law;

21 or

22 “(ii) at the direction of a congres-  
23 sional report; and

24 “(B) does not include any plan or report  
25 that is required to be submitted to the Com-  
26 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate.

1           “(3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COM-  
2           MITTEE.—The term ‘relevant congressional com-  
3           mittee’ means a congressional committee to which a  
4           recurring plan or report is required to be submitted.

5           “(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY  
6           REPORTS.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency  
8           shall include in the budget justification materials of  
9           the agency—

10                   “(A) subject to paragraph (2), a list of  
11                   each recurring plan or report submitted by the  
12                   agency that the head of the agency determines  
13                   to be outdated or duplicative;

14                   “(B) with respect to each recurring plan or  
15                   report described in subparagraph (A)—

16                           “(i) a recommendation on whether to  
17                           sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the  
18                           frequency of the submission of the recur-  
19                           ring plan or report;

20                           “(ii) a citation to each provision of  
21                           law or directive in a congressional report  
22                           that requires or requests the submission of  
23                           the recurring plan or report; and

1           “(iii) a list of the relevant congress-  
2           sional committees for the recurring plan or  
3           report; and

4           “(C) a justification explaining, with respect  
5           to each recommendation described in subpara-  
6           graph (B)(i) relating to a recurring plan or re-  
7           port—

8           “(i) why the head of the agency made  
9           the recommendation, which may include an  
10          estimate of the resources expended by the  
11          agency to prepare and submit the recur-  
12          ring plan or report; and

13          “(ii) the understanding of the head of  
14          the agency of the purpose of the recurring  
15          plan or report.

16          “(2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—

17          “(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the list  
18          required under paragraph (1)(A), if, in submit-  
19          ting a recurring plan or report, an agency is re-  
20          quired to coordinate or consult with another  
21          agency or entity, the head of the agency sub-  
22          mitting the recurring plan or report shall con-  
23          sult with the head of each agency or entity with  
24          whom consultation or coordination is required.

1           “(B) INCLUSION IN LIST.—If, after a con-  
2           sultation under subparagraph (A), the head of  
3           each agency or entity consulted under that sub-  
4           paragraph agrees that a recurring plan or re-  
5           port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the  
6           agency required to submit the recurring plan or  
7           report shall—

8                   “(i) include the recurring plan or re-  
9                   port in the list described in paragraph  
10                  (1)(A); and

11                  “(ii) identify each agency or entity  
12                  with which the head of the agency is re-  
13                  quired to coordinate or consult in submit-  
14                  ting the recurring plan or report.

15           “(C) DISAGREEMENT.—If the head of any  
16           agency or entity consulted under subparagraph  
17           (A) does not agree that a recurring plan or re-  
18           port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the  
19           agency required to submit the recurring plan or  
20           report shall not include the recurring plan or  
21           report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A).

22           “(3) GOVERNMENT-WIDE OR MULTI-AGENCY  
23           PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS.—With respect to  
24           a recurring plan or report required to be submitted

1 by not less than 2 agencies, the Director of the Of-  
2 fice of Management and Budget shall—

3 “(A) determine whether the requirement to  
4 submit the recurring plan or report is outdated  
5 or duplicative; and

6 “(B) make recommendations to Congress  
7 accordingly.

8 “(c) DISPOSITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a rec-  
10 ommendation on a recurring plan or report included  
11 in budget justification materials by the head of an  
12 agency under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), the chair and  
13 ranking member of each relevant congressional com-  
14 mittee may—

15 “(A) in coordination with any other rel-  
16 evant congressional committee, as necessary,  
17 agree or disagree with the recommendation or  
18 postpone a decision on the recommendation;  
19 and

20 “(B) notify each agency that submits a  
21 recommendation of the disposition of the rec-  
22 ommendation under subparagraph (A).

23 “(2) LEGISLATIVE STEPS.—If a relevant con-  
24 gressional committee agrees with an agency rec-  
25 ommendation submitted under subsection

1 (b)(1)(B)(i), the relevant congressional committee  
2 may take the necessary legislative steps to accom-  
3 plish the recommendation, which may include con-  
4 sulting with the agency that submits the recurring  
5 plan or report that is the subject of the rec-  
6 ommendation to prepare appropriate legislation.

7 “(3) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this  
8 section shall be construed to relieve the head of an  
9 agency from a requirement to submit a recurring  
10 plan or report.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by  
12 striking “in the budget of the United States Govern-  
13 ment, as provided by section 1105(a)(37)” and in-  
14 sserting “in the budget justification materials of each  
15 agency”.

16 (b) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title  
17 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph  
18 (39).

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