

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7593

To enhance the authority of the Director of the Congressional Research Service to obtain information directly from agencies of the Federal government.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2024

Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. CAREY, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To enhance the authority of the Director of the Congressional Research Service to obtain information directly from agencies of the Federal government.

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 “Modernizing the Con-  
5 gressional Research Service’s Access to Data Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE**  
2 **TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.**

3 (a) DIRECT ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Section 203  
4 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C.  
5 166) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
7 section (k); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-  
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(j)(1) In carrying out the duties and functions of  
11 the Congressional Research Service under subsection (d),  
12 the Director is authorized to secure books, records, cor-  
13 respondence, memoranda, papers, documents, secure in-  
14 formation, and other data in all forms directly from the  
15 various departments, agencies, and establishments of the  
16 executive branch of the Government and the regulatory  
17 agencies and commissions of the Government as the Direc-  
18 tor determines to be necessary to carry out the request,  
19 and all such departments, agencies, establishments, and  
20 regulatory agencies and commissions shall furnish the Di-  
21 rector with all such available material in a timely manner.

22 “(2) With respect to books, records, correspondence,  
23 memoranda, papers, documents, secure information, and  
24 other data in all forms obtained under paragraph (1), the  
25 Director shall maintain the same level of confidentiality  
26 as is required by law of the department, agency, establish-

1 ment, or regulatory agency or commission from which it  
2 is obtained. Officers and employees of the Congressional  
3 Research Service shall be subject to the same statutory  
4 penalties for unauthorized disclosure or use as officers or  
5 employees of the department, agency, establishment, or  
6 regulatory agency or commission from which it is ob-  
7 tained.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 203(d)(1)  
9 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 166(d)(1)) is amended in the matter  
10 following subparagraph (C) by striking “and in the per-  
11 formance of this duty” and all that follows through “com-  
12 ply with such request;”.

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