

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) GAO Study on Disadvantaged Communities

(i) Study Directed: The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential disparate impact of H.R. 1631, the PRO Codes Act on historically disadvantaged communities.

(ii) Elements of the Study: The study shall include, but not be limited to:

a) An analysis of how limited access to technical standards incorporated in the PRO Codes Act could disproportionately hinder the ability of historically disadvantaged communities to assert their legal rights and advocate for legal reforms.

b) An assessment of how the potential costs associated with accessing standards could create additional barriers for residents of historically disadvantaged communities seeking to understand and enforce their rights.

c) An examination of potential disparities in outcomes for historically disadvantaged communities arising from the implementation of the PRO Codes Act.

d) Recommendations on ways to mitigate any identified disparate impacts on historically disadvantaged communities.

(iii) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within two years of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of PRO Codes on historically disadvantaged communities from section d(i)-(ii).

#14

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) Study of Costs for States, Cities, Municipalities, Counties, Special Districts, Associated with Standards Incorporated by Reference (SIBR).

(i) Requirement for Cost Analysis: The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a comprehensive study of the costs associated with the implementation of the PRO Codes Act, H.R. 1631. This study will encompass levels of government, including state, cities, municipalities, counties, and special district governments, to ensure a complete understanding of the potential financial impact.

(ii) Scope of Analysis: The analysis shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Fees charged by Standard Development Organizations to state, cities, municipalities, counties, and special district governments for access to standards incorporated by reference.

(b) An analysis of indirect costs to state, cities, municipalities, counties, and special district governments associated with compliance with the PRO Codes Act.

(iii) Reporting: The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within two years of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the cost analysis required under subsection (i) of this section. The report shall include recommendations on potential actions to improve cost-effectiveness related to SIBRs.

#15

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

- (d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on Consumers**
 - (i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential impact of HR 1631 the PRO Codes Act on consumers.**
 - (ii) Elements of the Study**
 - (a) Implications for consumer protection under the PRO Codes Act.**
 - (b) Potential for increased costs or confusion among consumers due to new regulations.**
 - (c) Accessibility of information about rights and protections for consumers under the PRO Codes Act.**
 - (d) Recommendations to enhance consumer protection and information accessibility.**
 - (iii) Report**
 - (a) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within one year of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of PRO Codes on consumers.**

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

- (d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on Digital Privacy and Data Protection
 - (i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential impact of the PRO Codes Act on digital privacy and data protection.
 - (ii) Elements of the Study
 - (a) Analysis of how the PRO Codes Act affects the protection of personal data.
 - (b) Evaluation of the Act's compliance requirements related to data security.
 - (d) Recommendations for strengthening digital privacy protections.
 - (iii) Report
 - (a) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within 18 months of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of the PRO Codes Act on digital privacy and data protection.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

- (d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on access to the law.
 - (i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the impact of the PRO Codes Act specifically on platforms that offer legal codes online at no cost to the public. The study will assess how the Act influences these platforms' operations and the public's access to and understanding of the law.
 - (ii) Elements of the Study
 - (a) Assessment of how the PRO Codes Act influences the operations of online platforms that provide public access to legal codes and other regulatory documents.
 - (b) Evaluation of the Act's provisions that may limit or enhance public accessibility to legal information via these platforms.
 - (c) Analysis of potential barriers introduced by the Act that could hinder public understanding of legal standards and codes.
 - (d) Recommendations for amendments or new provisions to ensure continued and enhanced public access to legal codes and standards, fostering transparency and legal literacy.
 - (iii) Report
 - (a) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within two years of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on inclusive of accessibility and usability standards for people with disabilities.

(i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the impact of the PRO Codes Act on disabled populations, specifically assessing whether the Act's definition of "publicly accessible" is sufficiently inclusive of accessibility and usability standards for people with disabilities.

(ii) Elements of the Study

(a) Evaluation of how the accessibility provisions of the PRO Codes Act impact the ability of people with disabilities to access and use public codes and standards.

(b) Examination of current gaps in accessibility that may prevent full participation of disabled individuals in public and legal affairs as affected by the Act.

(c) Recommendations to ensure the PRO Codes Act aligns with federal accessibility standards and effectively serves the needs of the disabled community.

(iii) Report The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within 18 months of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the accessibility of the PRO Codes Act for disabled populations.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

- (d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on Affordable Housing
 - (i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential impact of the PRO Codes Act on the development and accessibility of affordable housing.
 - (ii) Elements of the Study
 - (a) Analysis of the PRO Codes Act's impact on the costs and regulatory barriers to building affordable housing.
 - (b) Evaluation of the Act's impact on the availability of affordable housing units in urban and rural areas.
 - (c) Assessment of the Act's cost on affordable housing projects.
 - (iii) Report
 - (a) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within two years of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of the PRO Codes Act on affordable housing.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

- (d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on SDO Access Conditions
 - (i) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on whether Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) condition access to standards under the PRO Codes Act by requiring users to create accounts, agree to restrictive terms of service, or meet other potentially burdensome conditions.
 - (ii) Elements of the Study
 - (a) Assessment of the extent to which SDOs impose conditions that could restrict public access to standards and legal codes, such as account creation, agreement to terms of service, or other barriers.
 - (b) Evaluation of the impact of these conditions on the public's ability to freely access, distribute, share, and print essential legal information.
 - (c) Analysis of potential violations of the fundamental principle that laws should be accessible without undue restrictions, considering the implications for transparency and accountability.
 - (d) Recommendations for legislative or regulatory measures to ensure that access to legal information under the PRO Codes Act is not conditioned on undue or discriminatory terms.
 - (iii) Report
 - (a) The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within 18 months of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study.

#21

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on Executive Compensation at SDOs

i. The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on executive compensation within Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), particularly those with substantial revenue streams and tax-exempt status.

a) Elements of the Study

i. Analysis of the revenue sources of large SDOs, including details on income from sales of publications, fees for training and certification services, and membership dues.

ii. Examination of the scale of executive compensation at these organizations, including total executive compensation as a proportion of total revenues and in comparison to industry standards.

iii. Evaluation of the governance practices related to executive compensation at SDOs, including transparency, accountability, and alignment with nonprofit organization standards.

iv. Recommendations for potential regulatory or legislative actions to ensure that executive compensation at tax-exempt SDOs remains within reasonable limits and aligns with best practices for nonprofit management.

b) The Comptroller General shall submit this report to Congress within 18 months of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on HR 1631 and homeowner costs for building code access.

i. The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on how H.R. 1631 would affect the costs imposed on homeowners' access to building codes.

(a) Elements of the Study:

i. Examination of the financial impact on homeowners, particularly focusing on how these costs might deter necessary maintenance, safety upgrades, and other costs associated with renovations.

ii. Evaluation of how HR 1631 would affect the availability and affordability of building codes across different regions and income groups.

iii. Recommendations for improving HR 1631 to make building codes more accessible and affordable for homeowners.

(b) Report:

i. The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within 18 months of the enactment of this Act.

#24

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA**

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) on Small Businesses

i. The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential impact of the PRO Codes Act, HR 1631, on small businesses.

a. Elements of the Study

i. The extent to which compliance burdens are affected by the PRO Codes Act.

ii. Analysis of small businesses' ability to compete with larger entities under the new regulatory framework.

iii. Availability and effectiveness of legal resources for small businesses navigating the PRO Codes Act.

iv. Recommendations to mitigate any identified negative impacts on small businesses.

b) Report

i. The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within one year of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of PRO Codes on small businesses.

#25
AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1631
OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

Insert the following after line 6 on page 9:

(d) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study on First Amendment Rights

i. The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the potential impact of H.R. 1631, the PRO Codes Act, on First Amendment rights, specifically the public's ability to access, read, share, and debate the law, including codes incorporated by reference.

a) Elements of the Study

i. Analysis of how the PRO Codes Act may lead standard development organizations to place the law behind paywalls, thus restricting public access to essential legal information and potentially violating First Amendment rights,

ii. Evaluation of the economic, legal, and social impacts of restricting public access to codes and standards referenced in the Act.

iii. Examination of precedents and legal interpretations regarding public access to laws and how they align with First Amendment protections.

iv. Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes to ensure that all laws and standards referenced in the Act are accessible without undue financial or procedural barriers.

b) Report i. The Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress within one year of the enactment of this Act, detailing the findings of the GAO Study on the impact of the PRO Codes Act on First Amendment rights.