H. R. ______

To amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MEADOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, 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 “Federal Register Modern-
5 ization Act”.
6 SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.
7 (a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title
8 44, United States Code, is amended—
9 (1) in section 1502—
(A) in the heading, by striking “printing” and inserting “publishing”; and

(B) by striking “printing and distribution” and inserting “publishing”;

(2) in section 1507 is amended—

(A) by striking “the duplicate originals or certified copies of the document have” and inserting “the document has”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “printed” and inserting “published”; and

(3) in section 1509, in subsections (a) and (b) of, by striking “printing, reprinting, wrapping, binding, and distributing” and inserting “publishing”, each place it appears.

(b) Publish Defined.—Section 1501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “; and” at the end of the definition for “person” and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by inserting after the definition for “person” the following:

“‘publish’ means to circulate for sale or distribution to the public; and”.

(e) Filing Documents With Office Amendment.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing

“The original document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times established by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States shall cause to be noted on the original of each document the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall be immediately available for public inspection in the Office. The original shall be retained by the National Archives and Records Administration and shall be available for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Committee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under chapter 33 of this title; however, originals of proclamations of the President and Executive orders shall be permanently retained by the Administration as part of the National Archives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to the Government Publishing Office, as provided by this chapter, each document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title. Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for...
filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency.’’.

(d) **Federal Register Amendment.**—Section 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

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§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price

“Documents required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be published immediately by the Government Publishing Office in a serial publication designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall make available the facilities of the Government Publishing Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at the times required by this chapter and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall constitute all documents, required or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There shall be published with each document a copy of the notation, required to be made by section 1503 of this title, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning
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of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed
under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Fed-
eral Register may be fixed by the Administrative Com-
mittee of the Federal Register established by section 1506
of this title without reference to the restrictions placed
upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications
by sections 1705 and 1708 of this title.”

(c) DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL
REGISTER.—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code,
is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “COM-
MENTS” and inserting “NEWS COMMENTARY”; and

(B) by striking “comments” and inserting
“news commentary”; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the matter following
paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “telecommunications, the
Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

(B) by striking “and two duplicate origi-
nals or two certified copies” and inserting “doc-
ument”.

(f) **Administrative Committee of the Federal Register Amendment.**—Section 1506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

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§ 1506. Administrative Committee of the Federal Register; establishment and composition; powers and duties

“The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Archivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attorney General, and the Director of the Government Publishing Office or Acting Director of the Government Publishing Office. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the President, regulations for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among other things—

“(1) the documents which shall be authorized under section 1505(b) of this title to be published in the Federal Register;

“(2) the manner and form in which the Federal Register shall be published;

“(3) the manner of distribution to Members of Congress, officers and employees of the United States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the
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number which shall be available for distribution to
the public;

“(4) the prices to be charged for individual cop-
ies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register
and any reprints and bound volumes of it;

“(5) the manner and form by which the Federal
Register may receive information and comments
from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

“(6) special editions of the Federal Register.”.

(g) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMEND-
MENT.—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is
amended to read as follows:

“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations

“(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGEN-
CY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the
Federal Register, with the approval of the President, may
require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the
preparation and publication in a special edition of the Fed-
eral Register a complete codification of the documents of
each agency of the Government having general applica-
bility and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency
by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with
the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon
by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by
it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are
in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by
the Administrative Committee.

“(b) Code of Federal Regulations.—A codifica-
tion prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be
published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal
Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regu-
late the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

“(c) Supplementation, Collation, and Republi-
cation.—The Administrative Committee shall regulate
the supplementation and the collation and republication
of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Fed-
eral Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of
codification shall be supplemented and republished at least
once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Reg-
ister may create updates of each unit of codification from
time to time and make the same available electronically
or may provide public access using an electronic edition
that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve
the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

“(d) Preparation and Publication by the Fed-
eral Register.—The Office of the Federal Register
shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements,
collations, and user aids authorized by this section.

“(e) Prima Facie Evidence.—The codified docu-
ments of the several agencies published in the Code of
Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by documents subsequently filed with the Office and published in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date of publication.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Administrative Committee, with approval of the President, shall issue regulations for carrying out this section.

“(g) EXCEPTION.—This section does not require codification of the text of Presidential documents published and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the items related to sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.
“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing.
“1504. ‘Federal Register'; publishing; contents; distribution; price.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the 
vote on passage.