

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 9592, With an Amendment**

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

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9592

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

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## 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 Mod-  
5 ernization Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.**

7 (a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title  
8 44, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in section 1502—

2 (A) in the heading, by striking “**print-**  
3 **ing**” and inserting “**publishing**”; and

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

6 (2) in section 1507—

7 (A) by striking “the duplicate originals or  
8 certified copies of the document have” and in-  
9 serting “the document has”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “print-  
11 ed” and inserting “published”; and

12 (3) in section 1509, by striking “printing, re-  
13 printing, wrapping, binding, and distributing” each  
14 place it appears and inserting “publishing”.

15 (b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44,  
16 United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) by striking “; and” at the end of the defini-  
18 tion for “person” and inserting a semicolon; and

19 (2) by inserting after the definition for “per-  
20 son” the following:

21 “‘publish’ means to circulate for sale or dis-  
22 tribution to the public, as determined by the Admin-  
23 istrative Committee of the Federal Register; and”.

1 (c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMEND-  
2 MENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **“§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of**  
5 **time; public inspection; transmission for**  
6 **publishing**

7 “The original document required or authorized to be  
8 published by section 1505 shall be filed with the Office  
9 of the Federal Register for publication at times estab-  
10 lished by the Administrative Committee of the Federal  
11 Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States  
12 shall cause to be noted on the original of each document  
13 the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall  
14 be immediately available for public inspection. The origi-  
15 nal shall be retained by the National Archives and Records  
16 Administration and shall be available for inspection under  
17 regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such origi-  
18 nal is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules  
19 submitted by the Administrative Committee and author-  
20 ized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under  
21 chapter 33; however, originals of proclamations of the  
22 President and Executive orders shall be permanently re-  
23 tained by the Administration as part of the National Ar-  
24 chives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to  
25 the Government Publishing Office, as provided by this

1 chapter, each document required or authorized to be pub-  
2 lished by section 1505. Every Federal agency shall cause  
3 to be transmitted for filing the original of all such docu-  
4 ments issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency.”.

5 (d) FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section  
6 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 **“§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; dis-**  
9 **tribution; price; physical copies**

10 “Documents required or authorized to be published  
11 by section 1505 shall be published immediately by the  
12 Government Publishing Office in a serial publication des-  
13 ignated the ‘Federal Register’. The Director of the Gov-  
14 ernment Publishing Office shall make available the facili-  
15 ties of the Government Publishing Office for the prompt  
16 publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at  
17 the times required by this chapter and the regulations pre-  
18 scribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall con-  
19 stitute all documents, required or authorized to be pub-  
20 lished, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to  
21 the time of the day immediately preceding the day of pub-  
22 lication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There  
23 shall be published with each document a copy of the nota-  
24 tion, required to be made by section 1503, of the day and  
25 hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was

1 made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be  
2 made at a time in the morning of the day of distribution  
3 fixed by regulations prescribed under this chapter. The  
4 prices to be charged for the Federal Register may be fixed  
5 by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register  
6 established by section 1506 without reference to the re-  
7 strictions placed upon and fixed for the sale of Govern-  
8 ment publications by sections 1705 and 1708. The Gov-  
9 ernment Publishing Office shall print at least two physical  
10 copies of each published Federal Register issue. Of those,  
11 not less than two copies shall be stored, each in a separate  
12 facility, to ensure the preservation of the Federal Register  
13 for the purposes of continuity of government.”.

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

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

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

23 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
24 section (d);

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
2           lowing new subsection:

3           “(c) ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION.—In a continuity  
4 of operations event in which the Government Publishing  
5 Office does not fulfill the publication requirements of this  
6 chapter, the Office of the Federal Register may establish  
7 an alternative method to publish the Federal Register  
8 until such time that the Government Publishing Office re-  
9 sumes publication.”; and

10           (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, in the  
11           matter following paragraph (2)—

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

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

17           (f) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL  
18 REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 1506  
19 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21           “(a) COMPOSITION; DUTIES.—The Administrative  
22 Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Ar-  
23 chivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall  
24 chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Jus-  
25 tice designated by the Attorney General, and the Director

1 of the Government Publishing Office or Acting Director  
2 of the Government Publishing Office. The Director of the  
3 Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee.  
4 The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the  
5 President or their designee, regulations for carrying out  
6 this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among  
7 other things, the following:

8           “(1) The documents which shall be authorized  
9           under section 1505(b) to be published in the Federal  
10          Register.

11           “(2) The manner and form in which the Fed-  
12          eral Register shall be published.

13           “(3) The manner and form in which agencies  
14          submit documents for publication in the Federal  
15          Register and special editions of the Federal Reg-  
16          ister.

17           “(4) Subject to subsection (b), the manner of  
18          distribution to Members of Congress, officers and  
19          employees of the United States, or Federal agency,  
20          for official use, and the number which shall be avail-  
21          able for distribution to the public.

22           “(5) The prices to be charged for individual  
23          copies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register  
24          and any reprints and bound volumes of it.

1           “(6) The manner and form by which the Fed-  
2           eral Register may receive information and comments  
3           from the public, if practicable and efficient.

4           “(7) Special editions of the Federal Register.”.

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

8           **“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations**

9           “(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGEN-  
10          CY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the  
11          Federal Register, with the approval of the President or  
12          their designee, may require, from time to time as it con-  
13          siders necessary, the preparation and publication in a spe-  
14          cial edition of the Federal Register a complete codification  
15          of the documents of each agency of the Government hav-  
16          ing general applicability and legal effect, issued or promul-  
17          gated by the agency by publication in the Federal Register  
18          or by filing with the Administrative Committee, and which  
19          are relied upon by the agency as authority for, or are in-  
20          voked or used by it in the discharge of, its activities or  
21          functions, and are in effect as to facts arising on or after  
22          dates specified by the Administrative Committee.

23          “(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codifica-  
24          tion prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be  
25          published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal



1 Regulations'. The Administrative Committee shall regu-  
2 late the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

3       “(c) SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND REPUBLI-  
4 CATION.—The Administrative Committee shall regulate  
5 the supplementation and the collation and republication  
6 of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Fed-  
7 eral Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of  
8 codification shall be supplemented and republished at least  
9 once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Reg-  
10 ister may create updates of each unit of codification from  
11 time to time and make the same available electronically  
12 or may provide public access using an electronic edition  
13 that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve  
14 the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

15       “(d) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FED-  
16 ERAL REGISTER.—The Office of the Federal Register  
17 shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements,  
18 collations, indices, and user aids authorized by this sec-  
19 tion.

20       “(e) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—The codified docu-  
21 ments of the several agencies published in the Code of  
22 Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by  
23 documents subsequently filed with the Office and pub-  
24 lished in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall  
25 be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and

1 of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date  
2 of publication.

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

6 “(g) EXCEPTION.—This section does not require  
7 codification of the text of Presidential documents pub-  
8 lished and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3  
9 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

10 (h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
11 The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United  
12 States Code, is amended by striking the items related to  
13 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; trans-  
mission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price; physical cop-  
ies.”.