

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 150

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 18, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

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## AN ACT

To modernize Federal grant reporting, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reporting Effi-  
3 ciency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2019” or the  
4 “GREAT Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

6 The purposes of this Act are to—

7 (1) modernize reporting by recipients of Federal  
8 grants and cooperative agreements by creating and  
9 imposing data standards for the information that  
10 grants and cooperative agreement recipients must  
11 report to the Federal Government;

12 (2) implement the recommendation by the Di-  
13 rector of the Office of Management and Budget,  
14 under section 5(b)(6) of the Federal Funding Ac-  
15 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31  
16 U.S.C. 6101 note), which includes the development  
17 of a “comprehensive taxonomy of standard defini-  
18 tions for core data elements required for managing  
19 Federal financial assistance awards”;

20 (3) reduce burden and compliance costs of re-  
21 cipients of Federal grants and cooperative agree-  
22 ments by enabling technology solutions, existing or  
23 yet to be developed, by both the public and private  
24 sectors, to better manage data recipients already  
25 provide to the Federal Government; and

1 (4) to strengthen oversight and management of  
2 Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agen-  
3 cies through consolidated collection and display of  
4 and access to open data that has been standardized,  
5 and where appropriate, transparency to the public.

6 **SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

7 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle V of title 31, United  
8 States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the  
9 following new chapter:

10 **“CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR**  
11 **GRANT REPORTING**

12 **“SEC. 6401. DEFINITIONS.**

13 “In this chapter:

14 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the  
15 meaning given that term in section 552(f) of title 5.

16 “(2) CORE DATA ELEMENTS.—The term ‘core  
17 data elements’ means data elements that are not  
18 program-specific in nature and are required by agen-  
19 cies for all or the vast majority of Federal grant and  
20 cooperative assistance recipients for purposes of re-  
21 porting.

22 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means  
23 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
24 et.

1           “(4) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal  
2       award’—

3           “(A) means the transfer of anything of  
4       value for a public purpose of support or stimu-  
5       lation authorized by a law of the United States,  
6       including financial assistance and Government  
7       facilities, services, and property;

8           “(B) includes grants, subgrants, awards,  
9       and cooperative agreements; and

10          “(C) does not include—

11           “(i) conventional public information  
12          services or procurement of property or  
13          services for the direct benefit or use of the  
14          Government; or

15           “(ii) an agreement that provides  
16          only—

17           “(I) direct Government cash as-  
18          sistance to an individual;

19           “(II) a subsidy;

20           “(III) a loan;

21           “(IV) a loan guarantee; or

22           “(V) insurance.

23           “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
24       the head of the standard-setting agency.

1           “(6) STANDARD-SETTING AGENCY.—The term  
2           ‘standard-setting agency’ means the Executive de-  
3           partment designated under section 6402(a)(1).

4           “(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each  
5           State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
6           each commonwealth, territory or possession of the  
7           United States, and each federally recognized Indian  
8           Tribe.

9           **“SEC. 6402. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

10          “(a) IN GENERAL.—

11                 “(1) DESIGNATION OF STANDARD-SETTING  
12                 AGENCY.—The Director shall designate the Execu-  
13                 tive department (as defined in section 101 of title 5)  
14                 that issues the most Federal awards in a calendar  
15                 year as the standard-setting agency.

16                 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not  
17                 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
18                 this chapter, the Secretary and the Director shall es-  
19                 tablish Governmentwide data standards for informa-  
20                 tion reported by recipients of Federal awards.

21                 “(3) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data standards  
22                 established under paragraph (2) shall include, at a  
23                 minimum—

24                         “(A) standard definitions for data elements  
25                         required for managing Federal awards; and

1           “(B) unique identifiers for Federal awards  
2           and entities receiving Federal awards that can  
3           be consistently applied Governmentwide.

4           “(b) SCOPE.—The data standards established under  
5           subsection (a) shall include core data elements and may  
6           cover any information required to be reported to any agen-  
7           cy by recipients of Federal awards, including audit-related  
8           information reported under chapter 75 of this title.

9           “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards required  
10          to be established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent  
11          reasonable and practicable—

12           “(1) render information reported by recipients  
13          of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards  
14          fully searchable and machine-readable;

15           “(2) be nonproprietary;

16           “(3) incorporate standards developed and main-  
17          tained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

18           “(4) be consistent with and implement applica-  
19          ble accounting and reporting principles; and

20           “(5) incorporate the data standards established  
21          under the Federal Funding Accountability and  
22          Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

23          “(d) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the data  
24          standards under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Di-  
25          rector shall consult with, as appropriate—

1           “(1) the Secretary of the Treasury, to ensure  
2           that the data standards incorporate the data stand-  
3           ards created under the Federal Funding Account-  
4           ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C.  
5           6101 note);

6           “(2) the head of each agency that issues Fed-  
7           eral awards;

8           “(3) recipients of Federal awards and organiza-  
9           tions representing recipients of Federal awards;

10          “(4) private sector experts;

11          “(5) members of the public, including privacy  
12          experts, privacy advocates, and industry stake-  
13          holders; and

14          “(6) State and local governments.

15 **“SEC. 6403. GUIDANCE APPLYING DATA STANDARDS FOR**  
16 **GRANT REPORTING.**

17          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
18          date of the enactment of this chapter—

19               “(1) the Secretary and the Director shall issue  
20               guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to  
21               apply the data standards established under section  
22               6402 to all applicable reporting by recipients of Fed-  
23               eral grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

1           “(2) the Director shall prescribe guidance ap-  
2           plying the data standards to audit-related informa-  
3           tion reported under chapter 75.

4           “(b) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued under this  
5 section shall—

6           “(1) to the extent reasonable and practicable—

7                   “(A) minimize the disruption to existing  
8                   reporting practices for agencies and for recipi-  
9                   ents of Federal grant and cooperative agree-  
10                  ment awards; and

11                   “(B) explore opportunities to implement  
12                  modern technologies within Federal award re-  
13                  porting;

14           “(2) allow the Director to permit exceptions for  
15           categories of grants if the Director publishes a list  
16           of such exceptions, including exceptions for Indian  
17           Tribes and Tribal organizations consistent with the  
18           Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
19           Act; and

20           “(3) take into consideration the consultation re-  
21           quired under section 6402(d).

22 **“SEC. 6404. AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.**

23           “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-  
24           ment of this chapter, the head of each agency shall ensure  
25           that all of the agency’s grants and cooperative agreements



1 use data standards for all future information collection re-  
2 quests and amend existing information collection requests  
3 covered by chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to  
4 as the Paperwork Reduction Act) to comply with the data  
5 standards established under section 6402, consistent with  
6 the guidance issued by the Secretary and the Director  
7 under section 6403.”.

8 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
9 The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 31, United  
10 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
11 ing to chapter 63 the following new item:

“64. Data Standards for Grant Reporting 6401”.

12 **SEC. 4. SINGLE AUDIT ACT.**

13 (a) AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) Section 7502(h) of title 31, United States  
15 Code, is amended by inserting before “to a Federal  
16 clearinghouse” the following “in an electronic form  
17 consistent with the data standards established under  
18 chapter 64,”.

19 (2) Section 7505 of title 31, United States  
20 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following  
21 new subsection:

22 “(d) Such guidance shall require audit-related infor-  
23 mation reported under this chapter to be reported in an  
24 electronic form consistent with the data standards estab-  
25 lished under chapter 64.”.

1 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue  
3 guidance requiring audit-related information reported  
4 under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, to be  
5 reported in an electronic form consistent with the data  
6 standards established under chapter 64 of title 31, United  
7 States Code, as added by section 3.

8 **SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATION OF ASSISTANCE-RELATED INFOR-**  
9 **MATION; PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMA-**  
10 **TION AS OPEN DATA.**

11 (a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than  
12 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
13 Secretary and the Director shall enable the collection, pub-  
14 lic display, and maintenance of Federal award information  
15 as a Governmentwide data set, using the data standards  
16 established under chapter 64 of title 31, United States  
17 Code, as added by section 3, subject to reasonable restric-  
18 tions established by the Director to ensure protection of  
19 personally identifiable and otherwise sensitive information.

20 (b) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
21 and the Director shall require the publication of recipient-  
22 reported data collected from all agencies on a single public  
23 portal. Information may be published on an existing Gov-  
24 ernmentwide website as determined appropriate by the Di-  
25 rector.

1 (c) FOIA.—Nothing in this section shall require the  
2 disclosure to the public of information that would be ex-  
3 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United  
4 States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Infor-  
5 mation Act”).

6 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF NONPROPRIETARY IDENTIFIERS.**

7 (a) DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—The Director and  
8 the Secretary shall determine whether to use nonpropri-  
9 etary identifiers under section 6402(a)(3)(B) of title 31,  
10 United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

11 (b) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In making the  
12 determination required pursuant to subsection (a), the Di-  
13 rector and the Secretary shall consider factors such as ac-  
14 cessibility and cost to recipients of Federal awards, agen-  
15 cies that issue Federal awards, private-sector experts, and  
16 members of the public, including privacy experts and pri-  
17 vacy advocates.

18 (c) PUBLICATION AND REPORT ON DETERMINA-  
19 TION.—Not later than the earlier of 1 year after the date  
20 of the enactment of this Act or the date on which the Sec-  
21 retary and Director establish data standards pursuant to  
22 section 6402(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, as  
23 added by section 3(a), the Secretary and the Director shall  
24 publish and submit to the Committees on Oversight and  
25 Government Reform of the House of Representatives and

1 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
2 ate a report explaining the reasoning for the determination  
3 made pursuant to subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act, the terms “agency”, “Director”, “Fed-  
6 eral award”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given  
7 those terms in section 6401 of title 31, United States  
8 Code, as added by section 3(a).

9 **SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

10 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this  
11 Act, shall be construed to require the collection of data  
12 that is not otherwise required pursuant to any Federal  
13 law, rule, or regulation.

14 **SEC. 9. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

15 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the  
16 requirements of this Act and the amendments made by  
17 this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using  
18 amounts otherwise authorized.

Passed the House of Representatives January 17,  
2019.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*