

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5859

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to require registration statements filed under such Act to be filed in a structured data format which enables the statements to be digitized for purposes of the publicly available electronic database maintained under such Act, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Mr. BUCK (for himself and Mr. KHANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to require registration statements filed under such Act to be filed in a structured data format which enables the statements to be digitized for purposes of the publicly available electronic database maintained under such Act, 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 “Foreign Agents Reg-  
5       istration Modernization Act of 2021” or the “FARM Act  
6       of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FORMAT FOR REGISTRATION STATEMENTS FILED**  
2 **UNDER FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION**  
3 **ACT OF 1938.**

4 (a) **REQUIRING REGISTRATION STATEMENTS TO BE**  
5 **IN STRUCTURED DATA FORMAT.**—Section 2(g) of the  
6 Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22  
7 U.S.C. 612(g)) is amended by striking “in electronic  
8 form” and inserting “in an electronic, structured data for-  
9 mat under which the statement or supplement shall be  
10 published in a publicly-available, machine-processable dig-  
11 ital format for purposes of the National Foreign Agents  
12 Database under section 6(d)”.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
14 this section shall apply with respect to statements filed  
15 on or after the expiration of the 180-day period which be-  
16 gins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF**  
18 **REGISTRATION STATEMENTS.**

19 (a) **REQUIRING DATABASE TO BE SEARCHABLE AND**  
20 **SORTABLE BY PUBLIC; DESIGNATION OF DATABASE AS**  
21 **“NATIONAL FOREIGN AGENTS DATABASE”.**—Section  
22 6(d)(1) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938,  
23 as amended (22 U.S.C. 616(d)(1)) is amended—

24 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
25 by striking “to the extent technically practicable,”;

1           (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
2       by striking “an electronic database” and inserting  
3       “an electronic database to be known as the ‘National  
4       Foreign Agents Database’”; and

5           (3) in subparagraph (A), by striking “includes  
6       the information” and inserting “includes in a  
7       digitized format meeting digital accessibility stand-  
8       ards as outlined in section 508 of the Rehabilitation  
9       Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) the information”.

10       (b) REQUIRING IMMEDIATE POSTING OF STATE-  
11       MENTS UPON RECEIPT.—Section 6(d)(2) of such Act (22  
12       U.S.C. 616(d)(2)) is amended by striking “as soon as  
13       technically practicable” and inserting “immediately”.

14       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
15       this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the  
16       180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment  
17       of this Act.

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