

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5559

To establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2021

Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To establish a website for Federal Government apps, 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 “Advancing and Pro-
5 moting Programming Act” or the “APP Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Eighty-four percent of leading app makers
9 are outside Silicon Valley, and 83 percent are small
10 businesses.

1 (2) Millions have participated in the Hour of
2 Code, which teaches the fundamental components of
3 computer programming.

4 (3) The Congressional App Challenge is an offi-
5 cially sanctioned competition to promote computer
6 science education and demonstrate the value of cod-
7 ing to the next generation.

8 (4) Computer Science majors earn 40 percent
9 more than the average college graduates.

10 (5) In 2016, China surpassed the United States
11 in app store revenue.

12 (6) The current extent of a Federal mobile app
13 directory exists as a text list on a General Services
14 Administration website.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that—

17 (1) computer science skills are critical to a bur-
18 geoning technology industry, and will provide high-
19 quality jobs for America’s future workforce;

20 (2) the Federal Government has an obligation
21 to provide information and services through a means
22 that meets the technology demands of our changing
23 society; and

1 (3) among other fields, computer programming
2 jobs are a way to ensure America keeps the highest-
3 quality jobs and remains a world economic leader.

4 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE FOR APPS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE.—Not later than
6 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Administrator of General Services shall establish a pub-
8 licly available website that includes a database of Federal
9 funding opportunities for the creation of apps, allows the
10 public to download a Federal Government app that has
11 been made available to the public, and includes the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) A list of each funding source (including
14 grants and prizes) for the creation and maintenance
15 of Federal Government apps and how an applicant
16 may apply for such funding, including resources
17 such as grants.gov, challenge.gov, and the Small
18 Business Innovation Research program.

19 (2) The ability for the public to rate and review
20 any such Federal Government app.

21 (3) A page that prominently displays apps that
22 have been recently updated or that receive a high
23 user review average under paragraph (2).

24 (4) A page that features Government projects
25 that provide application developers with tools to im-

1 prove private apps, such as data.gov and devel-
2 oper.epa.gov.

3 (5) Resources for education and training re-
4 lated to the creation of apps.

5 (6) A page that features outstanding, edu-
6 cational, computer science programs, determined by
7 the Administrator of General Services and the Direc-
8 tor of the National Science Foundation, and re-
9 sources to replicate such programs.

10 (b) REVIEW AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED APPS.—

11 The Administrator of General Services shall review any
12 app for which an update has not been released in more
13 than 2 years and shall remove any app from the website
14 described in subsection (a) that is no longer functional or
15 compatible.

16 (c) APP DEFINED.—In this section, the term “app”
17 means a software application that enables the performance
18 of a specific task that may be run on a computer, a mobile
19 device, the internet, or any other electronic device.

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