

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 985

To secure Federal access to scientific literature and other subscription services by requiring Federal agencies and legislative branch research arms to make recommendations on increasing agency library access to serials, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To secure Federal access to scientific literature and other subscription services by requiring Federal agencies and legislative branch research arms to make recommendations on increasing agency library access to serials, 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 “Well-Informed, Sci-
5 entific, and Efficient Government Act of 2021” or the
6 “WISE Government Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGENCY JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

2 (a) PROHIBITION ON NONDISCLOSURE PROVISION
3 FOR JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The head of an agency
4 may not enter into any contract for a journal subscription
5 that prohibits disclosure of the cost of the subscription to
6 another agency or the Library of Congress.

7 (b) EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO LIBRARY SUBSCRIP-
8 TIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall re-
10 quire that each library of the agency make easily and
11 clearly available to the employees of the agency, including
12 regional employees, through the intranet any policy or pro-
13 cedure for employee access to a subscription of the library.

14 (c) REPORT ON INCREASING ACCESS TO SERIALS.—
15 Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment
16 of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the
17 Library of Congress, the applicable agency libraries, and
18 other relevant stakeholders (including the Defense Tech-
19 nical Information Center, the National Library of Medi-
20 cine, the Education Resources Information Center, and
21 the National Technical Information Service) shall submit
22 to Congress and each agency library a report on increasing
23 agency library access to serials that includes—

24 (1) a survey of subscriptions purchased and
25 cost data for applicable agency libraries and the Li-
26 brary of Congress;

1 (2) an outline of any issues with agency access
2 to scientific serials and subscriptions, which may in-
3 clude contract issues, concerns arising with new pub-
4 lishing media (including print, online, and aggre-
5 gated services), the ability of agency employees to
6 use agency library subscriptions in headquarters and
7 regional offices, purchasing system inefficiencies,
8 and price concerns; and

9 (3) recommendations on addressing issues, in-
10 cluding short-term and long-term solutions and as-
11 sessing the potential need for greater interagency
12 transparency and new purchasing models.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
15 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-
16 ices.

17 (2) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
19 United States Code.

20 (3) APPLICABLE AGENCY LIBRARY.—The term
21 “applicable agency library” means the libraries of—

22 (A) the Executive departments listed in
23 section 101 of title 5, United States Code;

24 (B) the military departments listed in sec-
25 tion 102 of title 5, United States Code; and

1 (C) any agency with a scientific focus, in-
2 cluding the Environmental Protection Agency
3 and the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
4 ministration.

5 (4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
6 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
7 et.

8 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion may be construed as requiring the disclosure of mat-
10 ters that are otherwise not subject to disclosure under sec-
11 tion 552(b) of title 5, United States Code (commonly re-
12 ferred to as the Freedom of Information Act).

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