

H.R.1770

OPEN Government Data Act

Executive Summary for Agency Leadership

Prepared by: Tim OHagan
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DATA SOCIETY

Executive Overview

The OPEN Government Data Act positions federal data as a national strategic asset, requiring agencies to make their data accessible, discoverable, and usable by the public while protecting sensitive information.

This legislation requires significant operational changes in how agencies collect, manage, and share data.

Key Objectives of the Policy

- Make government data open and accessible by default
- Establish government data as a strategic national resource
- Create standardized data management practices across agencies
- Continue to keep protected sensitive data private

Strategic Alignment and Benefits

The Act strengthens agency capabilities and aligns with broader federal objectives:

- Supports evidence-based policymaking initiatives
- Aligns with federal transparency and accountability goals
- Promote economic opportunity, and innovation
- Enhances cross-agency collaboration and data sharing
- Promotes standardization of federal data practices

Impact on Data Management and Governance

The Act requires substantial operational changes in how to manage data assets

- Create and maintain Enterprise Data Inventory
 - Shows what data exists, where it's located, how it's used, and who's responsible for it.
- Establish data governance processes
 - Establishing formal rules, policies, and procedures for managing data throughout its lifecycle
- Make data machine-readable and openly accessible by default
- Publish non-sensitive data on Data.gov
- Submit required reports and evaluations
- Protect sensitive information

Implementation Considerations

Key Challenges

- Resource Constraints
- Interagency Coordination
- Data Format and Accessibility
- Data Governance
- Training / Cultural Shift:
- Enforcing Compliance
- Ongoing process

Required Implementation Timeline

The Act as a whole takes effect 180 days after the date of enactment, which was March 29, 2017
One year to complete Enterprise Data Inventory (or 90 days from their creation or identification)

- Required Reporting
 - CIOs must report missed requirements to Congress
 - Must explain why requirements weren't met
 - Must detail resources needed for compliance
- Oversight
 - GAO reviews and reports to Congress
 - OMB monitors agency compliance
 - Congressional oversight committees review progress
- Indirect Consequences
 - Budget scrutiny
 - Congressional oversight hearings
 - Public transparency requirements
 - Potential impact on agency performance evaluations

Next Steps for Leadership

1. Designate accountable executives (Chief Data Officers, CIOs)
2. Assess current resources and Identify gaps
3. Budget allocation
4. Resource acquisition
5. Implementation strategy
6. Staff training
7. Ongoing maintenance

Additional Resources and Support

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<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1770>