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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require all bills, resolutions, and other documents of Congress to be created, transmitted, and published in searchable electronic formats, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AMASH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To require all bills, resolutions, and other documents of Congress to be created, transmitted, and published in searchable electronic formats, 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; PURPOSES.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Searchable Legislation Act of 2018”.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-  
7 lows:



1 consistent with data standards recommended by such advisory  
2 bodies as Congress may establish.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
4 for chapter 2 of title 1, United States Code,  
5 is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
6 section 107 the following new item:

“107a. Searchable electronic formats.”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
8 this section shall apply with respect to the One Hundred  
9 Sixteenth Congress and each succeeding Congress.

10 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL DATA TASK FORCE.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Clerk of the  
13 House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate,  
14 acting jointly, shall establish an advisory body to be known  
15 as the “Congressional Data Task Force” (hereafter referred  
16 to as the “Task Force”).

17 (b) DUTIES.—

18 (1) RECOMMENDATION OF DATA STANDARDS.—  
19 The Task Force shall recommend data standards for  
20 the creation, transmission, and publication of information  
21 and documents of Congress, including bills, resolutions,  
22 amendments, reports, laws, and records, in searchable  
23 electronic formats for purposes of section 107a of title 1,  
24 United States Code (as added by section 2(a)).  
25

1           (2) SPECIFICATIONS FOR STANDARDS.—All  
2 data standards recommended by the Task Force  
3 shall be nonproprietary and machine-readable, and,  
4 to the greatest extent possible, shall enable the bulk  
5 downloading of information.

6           (3) CONSULTATION WITH EXPERTS.—In car-  
7 rying out its duties, the Task Force shall consult  
8 with private entities with expertise in data trans-  
9 parency standards.

10       (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be  
12 composed of employee representatives of the Office  
13 of the Clerk of the House, the Office of the Sec-  
14 retary of the Senate, the Library of Congress, the  
15 Congressional Research Service, the Government  
16 Publishing Office, the Center for Legislative Ar-  
17 chives, and such other offices of Congress and the  
18 legislative branch as the Clerk and Secretary con-  
19 sider appropriate.

20           (2) NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SERV-  
21 ICE.—Members of the Task Force may not receive  
22 additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of  
23 their service on the Task Force.

1       (d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—No additional funds  
2 may be appropriated to carry out this section during a  
3 fiscal year.

4       (e) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate  
5 on the last day of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.