

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 21

Directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to provide Internet access to certain Congressional documents, including certain Congressional Research Service publications, Senate lobbying and gift report filings, and Senate and Joint Committee documents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to provide Internet access to certain Congressional documents, including certain Congressional Research Service publications, Senate lobbying and gift report filings, and Senate and Joint Committee documents.

1 Whereas it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) it is often burdensome, difficult, and time-
3 consuming for citizens to obtain access to public
4 records of the United States Congress;

5 (2) congressional documents that are placed in
6 the Congressional Record are made available to the

1 public electronically by the Superintendent of Docu-
2 ments under the direction of the Public Printer;

3 (3) other congressional documents are also
4 made available electronically on websites maintained
5 by Members of Congress and Committees of the
6 Senate and the House of Representatives;

7 (4) a wide range of public records of the Con-
8 gress remain inaccessible to the public;

9 (5) the public should have easy and timely ac-
10 cess, including electronic access, to public records of
11 the Congress;

12 (6) the Congress should use new technologies to
13 enhance public access to public records of the Con-
14 gress; and

15 (7) an informed electorate is the most precious
16 asset of any democracy; and

17 Whereas it is the sense of the Senate that it will foster
18 democracy—

19 (1) to ensure public access to public records of
20 the Congress;

21 (2) to improve public access to public records of
22 the Congress; and

23 (3) to enhance the electronic public access, in-
24 cluding access via the Internet, to public records of
25 the Congress: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate
2 shall make information available to the public in accord-
3 ance with the provisions of this resolution.

4 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CRS INFORMATION.**

5 (a) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Sergeant-at-Arms of the
7 Senate, in consultation with the Director of the Con-
8 gressional Research Service, shall make available
9 through a centralized electronic database, for pur-
10 poses of access and retrieval by the public under sec-
11 tion 4 of this resolution, all information described in
12 paragraph (2) that is available through the Congres-
13 sional Research Service website.

14 (2) INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.—
15 The information to be made available under para-
16 graph (1) is:

17 (A) Congressional Research Service Issue
18 Briefs.

19 (B) Congressional Research Service Re-
20 ports that are available to Members of Congress
21 through the Congressional Research Service
22 website.

23 (C) Congressional Research Service Au-
24 thorization of Appropriations Products and Ap-
25 propriations Products.

1 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

2 (1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection

3 (a) does not apply to—

4 (A) any information that is confidential, as
5 determined by—

6 (i) the Director; or

7 (ii) the head of a Federal department
8 or agency that provided the information to
9 the Congressional Research Service; or

10 (B) any documents that are the product of
11 an individual, office, or committee research re-
12 quest (other than a document described in sub-
13 section (a)(2)).

14 (2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying
15 out this section, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate,
16 in consultation with the Director of the Congres-
17 sional Research Service, may—

18 (A) remove from the information required
19 to be made available under subsection (a) the
20 name and phone number of, and any other in-
21 formation regarding, an employee of the Con-
22 gressional Research Service;

23 (B) remove from the information required
24 to be made available under subsection (a) any
25 material for which the Director determines that

1 making it available under subsection (a) may
2 infringe the copyright of a work protected
3 under title 17, United States Code; and

4 (C) make any changes in the information
5 required to be made available under subsection
6 (a) that the Director determines necessary to
7 ensure that the information is accurate and
8 current.

9 (c) MANNER.—The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate,
10 in consultation with the Director of the Congressional Re-
11 search Service, shall make information required to be
12 made available under this section in a manner that—

13 (1) is practical and reasonable; and

14 (2) does not permit the submission of comments
15 from the public.

16 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE CONGRESS.**

17 (a) SENATE.—The Secretary of the Senate, through
18 the Office of Public Records and in accordance with such
19 standards as the Secretary may prescribe, shall make
20 available on the Internet for purposes of access and re-
21 trieval by the public:

22 (1) LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—Lob-
23 byist disclosure reports required by the Lobbying
24 Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with-

1 in 90 days (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays ex-
2 cepted) after they are received.

3 (2) GIFT RULE DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—Senate
4 gift rule disclosure reports required under paragraph
5 2 and paragraph 4(b) of rule XXXV of the Standing
6 Rules of the Senate within 5 days (Saturdays, Sun-
7 days, and holidays excepted) after they are received.

8 (b) DIRECTORY.—The Superintendent of Documents,
9 under the Direction of the Public Printer in the Govern-
10 ment Printing Office, shall include information about the
11 documents made available on the Internet under this sec-
12 tion in the electronic directory of Federal electronic infor-
13 mation required by section 4101(a)(1) of title 44, United
14 States Code.

15 **SEC. 4. METHOD OF ACCESS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The information required to be
17 made available to the public on the Internet under this
18 resolution shall be made available as follows:

19 (1) CRS INFORMATION.—Public access to infor-
20 mation made available under section 2 shall be pro-
21 vided through the websites maintained by Members
22 and Committees of the Senate.

23 (2) PUBLIC RECORDS.—Public access to infor-
24 mation made available under section 3 by the Sec-
25 retary of the Senate's Office of Public Records shall

1 be provided through the United States Senate
2 website.

3 (b) EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRS REPORTS
4 ONLINE.—The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate is respon-
5 sible for maintaining and updating the information made
6 available on the Internet under section 2.

7 **SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MATERIALS.**

8 It is the sense of the Senate that each standing and
9 special Committee of the Senate and each Joint Com-
10 mittee of the Congress, in accordance with such rules as
11 the committee may adopt, should provide access via the
12 Internet to publicly-available committee information, doc-
13 uments, and proceedings, including bills, reports, and
14 transcripts of committee meetings that are open to the
15 public.

16 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION.**

17 The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate shall establish
18 the database described in section 2(a) within 6 months
19 after the date of adoption of this resolution.

20 **SEC. 7. GAO STUDY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 1 year after the date
22 on which the database described in section 2(a) is estab-
23 lished, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall request the Comptroller
24 General to examine the cost of implementing this resolu-
25 tion, other than this section, with particular attention to

1 the cost of establishing and maintaining the database and
2 submit a report within 6 months thereafter. The Sergeant-
3 at-Arms shall ask the Comptroller General to include in
4 the report recommendations on how to make operations
5 under this resolution more cost-effective, and such other
6 recommendations for administrative changes or changes in
7 law, as the Comptroller General may determine to be ap-
8 propriate.

9 (b) DELIVERY.—The Sergeant-at-Arms shall trans-
10 mit a copy of the Comptroller General’s report under sub-
11 section (a) to:

12 (1) The Senate Committee on Rules and Ad-
13 ministration.

14 (2) The Senate Committee on Commerce,
15 Science, and Transportation.

16 (3) The Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

17 (4) The Joint Committee of the Congress on
18 the Library of Congress.

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