

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4365

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives.

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 “Duplication Scoring
5 Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENTS OF REPORTED BILLS BY GAO.**

2 Section 719 of title 31, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(i)(1) In this subsection—

5 “(A) the term ‘covered bill or resolution’ means
6 a bill or joint resolution of a public character re-
7 ported by any committee of Congress (including the
8 Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on
9 the Budget of either House);

10 “(B) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of
11 the Congressional Budget Office;

12 “(C) the term ‘existing duplicative or overlap-
13 ping feature’ means an element of the Federal Gov-
14 ernment previously identified in a GAO duplication
15 and overlap report;

16 “(D) the term ‘GAO duplication and overlap re-
17 port’ means each annual report prepared by the
18 Comptroller General under section 21 of the Joint
19 Resolution entitled ‘Joint Resolution increasing the
20 statutory limit on the public debt’, approved Feb-
21 ruary 12, 2010 (31 U.S.C. 712 note); and

22 “(E) the term ‘new duplicative or overlapping
23 feature’ means a new Federal program, office, or
24 initiative created under a covered bill or joint resolu-
25 tion that would duplicate or overlap with an existing
26 duplicative or overlapping feature.

1 “(2) For each covered bill or joint resolution—

2 “(A) the Comptroller General shall—

3 “(i) prepare an assessment—

4 “(I) to determine whether the covered
5 bill or joint resolution creates a new dupli-
6 cative or overlapping feature; and

7 “(II) if the covered bill or joint resolu-
8 tion creates a new duplicative or overlap-
9 ping feature, that includes—

10 “(aa) the name of the new Fed-
11 eral program, office, or initiative; and

12 “(bb) a reference to—

13 “(AA) the section of the cov-
14 ered bill or joint resolution at
15 which the new duplicative or
16 overlapping feature is estab-
17 lished; and

18 “(BB) the GAO duplication
19 and overlap report in which the
20 existing duplicative or overlap-
21 ping feature is identified;

22 “(ii) submit the assessment prepared
23 under clause (i) to the Director; and

1 “(iii) publish the assessment prepared
2 under clause (i) on the website of the Govern-
3 ment Accountability Office; and

4 “(B) subject to paragraph (3), the Director
5 may include the assessment submitted by the Comp-
6 troller General under subparagraph (A)(ii) with the
7 estimate for the covered bill or joint resolution to
8 which the assessment pertains submitted by the Di-
9 rector under section 402 of the Congressional Budg-
10 et Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653).

11 “(3) If the Comptroller General has not submitted
12 to the Director an assessment for a covered bill or joint
13 resolution under paragraph (2)(A)(ii) on the date on
14 which the Director submits the estimate for the covered
15 bill or joint resolution to which the assessment pertains
16 under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of
17 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653), the Director may, on the date on
18 which the Comptroller General submits the assessment to
19 the Director, prepare and submit to each applicable com-
20 mittee a version of the estimate for the covered bill or joint
21 resolution that includes the assessment.”.

22 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
24 on the earlier of—

1 (1) the date that is 60 days after the date on
2 which the Director of the Office of Management and
3 Budget next, in accordance with section 1122(a) of
4 title 31, United States Code, updates the informa-
5 tion made available on the website required under
6 that section; or

7 (2) the date on which a new Congress begins
8 after the date that is 1 year after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act.

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