

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2551, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. LANCE OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert
the following:

1 **TITLE III—CRS ELECTRONIC**
2 **ACCESSIBILITY**

3 **SEC. 301. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Congressional Research Service, a spe-
6 cial reference unit within the Library of Congress,
7 offers invaluable research and analysis to Members
8 of Congress on all current and emerging issues of
9 national policy.

10 (2) The Congressional Research Service staff of
11 approximately 700 employees, including lawyers,
12 economists, reference librarians, and social, natural,
13 and physical scientists, are governed by require-
14 ments for accuracy, objectivity, balance, and non-
15 partisanship.

16 (3) The Congressional Research Service has a
17 responsibility to ensure that Members of the House
18 and Senate have available the best possible informa-
19 tion and analysis on which to base the policy deci-

1 sions the American people have elected them to
2 make.

3 (4) It is often burdensome, difficult, and time-
4 consuming for citizens to obtain access to objective
5 and nonpartisan policy analysis on issues affecting
6 their interests.

7 (5) It will enhance our democracy to provide
8 citizens with access to unbiased and accurate CRS
9 documents on legislation and other critical issues be-
10 fore Congress.

11 (6) Allowing public access to CRS will empower
12 citizens and enable Members of Congress to become
13 even more effective “representatives” of the public’s
14 concerns and goals.

15 **SEC. 302. AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL RE-**
16 **SEARCH SERVICE INFORMATION.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DATA-
18 BASE OF INFORMATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives and the Secretary of Senate, work-
21 ing jointly and in consultation with the Director of
22 the Congressional Research Service, shall establish
23 and maintain a centralized, searchable, electronic
24 database consisting of—

1 (A) all of the information described in
2 paragraph (2) that is available to Members, of-
3 ficers, employees, and offices of the House of
4 Representatives or Senate through the Congres-
5 sional Research Service website; and

6 (B) an index of the information described
7 in subparagraph (A).

8 (2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The informa-
9 tion described in this paragraph is as follows:

10 (A) Congressional Research Service Issue
11 Briefs.

12 (B) Congressional Research Service Re-
13 ports.

14 (C) Congressional Research Service Au-
15 thorization of Appropriations Products and Ap-
16 propriations Products.

17 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

18 (1) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection

19 (a) does not apply to—

20 (A) any information that is confidential, as
21 determined by—

22 (i) the Director, or

23 (ii) the head of a Federal department
24 or agency that provided the information to
25 the Congressional Research Service; or

1 (B) any document that is the product of a
2 confidential research request made by a Mem-
3 ber, officer, employee, or office of the House of
4 Representatives or Senate.

5 (2) REDACTION AND REVISION.—In carrying
6 out this section, the Clerk and the Secretary, on the
7 basis of information provided by the Director,
8 may—

9 (A) remove from the information included
10 in the database the name and phone number of,
11 and any other information regarding, an em-
12 ployee of the Congressional Research Service;

13 (B) remove from the information included
14 in the database any material for which the Di-
15 rector determines that including the informa-
16 tion on the database may infringe the copyright
17 of a work protected under title 17, United
18 States Code; and

19 (C) make any changes in the information
20 included in the database that the Director de-
21 termines necessary to ensure that the informa-
22 tion is accurate and current.

23 (c) PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
24 standing any provision of law to the contrary, the Director
25 may take such actions as may be necessary to enable the

1 Clerk and Secretary to establish and maintain the data-
2 base under this section, including providing the informa-
3 tion described in subsection (a)(2), without obtaining the
4 prior approval of the Committee on Rules and Administra-
5 tion of the Senate, the Committee on House Administra-
6 tion of the House of Representatives, or the Joint Com-
7 mittee on Printing.

8 **SEC. 303. METHOD OF PUBLIC ACCESS.**

9 (a) ACCESS THROUGH WEBSITES OF MEMBERS AND
10 COMMITTEES.—Each official public website of a Member
11 of the House of Representatives or Senate, a committee
12 of the House of Representatives or Senate, or a joint com-
13 mittee of the Congress shall permit members of the public
14 to use the website to obtain the information contained in
15 the database established under section 302, in the same
16 manner and to the same extent as Members, officers, em-
17 ployees, and offices of the House of Representatives and
18 Senate may obtain such information through the Congres-
19 sional Research Service website.

20 (b) REGULATIONS.—Subsection (a) shall be carried
21 out—

22 (1) in the case of websites of Members and
23 committees of the House of Representatives, in ac-
24 cordance with regulations promulgated by the Com-

1 mittee on House Administration of the House of
2 Representatives;

3 (2) in the case of websites of Members and
4 committees of the Senate, in accordance with regula-
5 tions promulgated by the Committee on Rules and
6 Administration of the Senate; and

7 (3) in the case of any other website to which
8 subsection (a) applies, in accordance with regula-
9 tions promulgated jointly by the Committee on
10 House Administration of the House of Representa-
11 tives and the Committee on Rules and Administra-
12 tion of the Senate.

13 **SEC. 304. NO RESPONSE TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES REQUIRED.**

14 Nothing in this title shall be construed to require the
15 Director to respond to any inquiry made by a member of
16 the public with respect to any of the information contained
17 in the database established and maintained under section
18 302 or made available the public on the Internet pursuant
19 to section 303.

20 **SEC. 305. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this title—

22 (1) the term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the
23 House of Representatives;

24 (2) the term “Director” means the Director of
25 the Congressional Research Service;

1 (3) the term “Member of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Com-
3 missioner to the Congress; and

4 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
5 of the Senate.

