

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1004

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of information relating to pending agency regulatory actions, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Regulatory Integrity  
3 Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO**  
5 **PENDING REGULATORY ACTIONS.**

6       (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United  
7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the  
8 following new section:

9 **“§ 307. Information regarding pending agency regu-**  
10 **latory action**

11       “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           “(1) AGENCY REGULATORY ACTION.—The term  
13 ‘agency regulatory action’ means guidance, policy  
14 statement, directive, rule making, or adjudication  
15 issued by an Executive agency.

16           “(2) PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.—The term  
17 ‘public communication’—

18               “(A) means any method (including written,  
19 oral, or electronic) of disseminating information  
20 to the public, including an agency statement  
21 (written or verbal), blog, video, audio recording,  
22 or other social media message; and

23               “(B) does not include a notice published in  
24 the Federal Register pursuant to section 553 or  
25 any requirement to publish pursuant to this  
26 section.

1           “(3) RULE MAKING.—The term ‘rule making’  
2       has the meaning given that term under section 551.

3           “(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED ONLINE.—

4           “(1) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each Execu-  
5       tive agency shall make publicly available in a search-  
6       able format in a prominent location either on the  
7       website of the Executive agency or in the rule mak-  
8       ing docket on Regulations.gov the following informa-  
9       tion:

10           “(A) PENDING AGENCY REGULATORY AC-  
11       TION.—A list of each pending agency regulatory  
12       action and with regard to each such action—

13           “(i) the date on which the Executive  
14       agency first began to develop or consider  
15       the agency regulatory action;

16           “(ii) the status of the agency regu-  
17       latory action;

18           “(iii) an estimate of the date of upon  
19       which the agency regulatory action will be  
20       final and in effect;

21           “(iv) a brief description of the agency  
22       regulatory action; and

23           “(v) if applicable, a list of agency reg-  
24       ulatory actions issued by the Executive  
25       agency, or any other Executive agency,

1           that duplicate or overlap with the agency  
2           regulatory action.

3           “(B) PUBLIC COMMUNICATION.—For each  
4           pending agency regulatory action, a list of each  
5           public communication about the pending agency  
6           regulatory action issued by the Executive agen-  
7           cy and with regard to each such communica-  
8           tion—

9                   “(i) the date of the communication;

10                   “(ii) the intended audience of the  
11                   communication;

12                   “(iii) the method of communication;

13                   and

14                   “(iv) a copy of the original commu-  
15                   nication.

16           “(2) PERIOD.—The head of each Executive  
17           agency shall publish the information required under  
18           paragraph (1)(A) not later than 24 hours after a  
19           public communication relating to a pending agency  
20           regulatory action is issued and shall maintain the  
21           public availability of such information not less than  
22           5 years after the date on which the pending agency  
23           regulatory action is finalized.

24           “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICA-  
25           TIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any public communication  
2           issued by an Executive agency that refers to a pend-  
3           ing agency regulatory action—

4                   “(A) shall specify whether the Executive  
5           agency is considering alternatives;

6                   “(B) shall specify whether the Executive  
7           agency is accepting or will be accepting com-  
8           ments; and

9                   “(C) shall expressly disclose that the Exec-  
10          utive agency is the source of the information to  
11          the intended recipients.

12          “(2) RESTRICTION.—Any public communication  
13          issued by an Executive agency that refers to a pend-  
14          ing agency regulatory action, other than an impar-  
15          tial communication that requests comment on or  
16          provides information regarding the pending agency  
17          regulatory action, may not—

18                   “(A) directly advocate, in support of or  
19          against the pending agency regulatory action,  
20          for the submission of information to form part  
21          of the record of review for the pending agency  
22          regulatory action;

23                   “(B) appeal to the public, or solicit a third  
24          party, to undertake advocacy in support of or

1           against the pending agency regulatory action;  
2           or

3           “(C) be directly or indirectly for publicity  
4           or propaganda purposes within the United  
5           States unless otherwise authorized by law.

6           “(d) REPORTING.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 15  
8           of each year, the head of an Executive agency that  
9           communicated about a pending agency regulatory  
10          action during the previous fiscal year shall submit to  
11          each committee of Congress with jurisdiction over  
12          the activities of the Executive agency a report indi-  
13          cating—

14               “(A) the number pending agency regu-  
15               latory actions the Executive agency issued pub-  
16               lic communications about during that fiscal  
17               year;

18               “(B) the average number of public commu-  
19               nications issued by the Executive agency for  
20               each pending agency regulatory action during  
21               that fiscal year;

22               “(C) the five pending agency regulatory ac-  
23               tions with the highest number of public commu-  
24               nications issued by the Executive agency in that  
25               fiscal year; and

1           “(D) a copy of each public communication  
2           for the pending agency regulatory actions iden-  
3           tified in subparagraph (C).

4           “(2) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The head of  
5           an Executive agency that is required to submit a re-  
6           port under paragraph (1) shall make the report pub-  
7           licly available in a searchable format in a prominent  
8           location on the website of the Executive agency.”.

9           (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—  
10          The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 5, United States  
11          Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-  
12          tion 306 the following new item:

          “307. Information regarding pending agency regulatory action.”.

          Passed the House of Representatives March 2,  
2017.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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