

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 2d Sess.

H. R. 7528

To amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. PETERS

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Comment Integrity
5 and Management Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON THE INTEGRITY AND MANAGEMENT OF**

7 **MASS COMMENTS, COMPUTER-GENERATED**

8 **COMMENTS, AND FALSELY ATTRIBUTED COM-**

9 **MENTS IN THE REGULATORY REVIEW PROC-**

10 **ESS.**

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

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of General Services
3 Administration.

4 (2) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
5 meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44,
6 United States Code.

7 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
8 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-
10 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the
11 Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 (4) COMMENT.—The term “comment” means a
14 submission under section 553(e) of title 5, United
15 States Code.

16 (5) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
17 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
18 et.

19 (6) MASS COMMENT.—The term “mass com-
20 ment” means a comment submitted as part of an or-
21 ganized submission of a large volume of identical, or
22 substantively identical, comments submitted by dif-
23 ferent signatories or entities.

24 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually during

1 the 5-year period thereafter, the Director, in consultation
2 with the Administrator, shall submit a report to the appro-
3 priate congressional committees and post a report on the
4 website of the Office of Management and Budget on—

5 (1) the prevalence of mass comments, com-
6 puter-generated comments, and falsely attributed
7 comments in the rulemaking process;

8 (2) the effect of mass comments, computer-gen-
9 erated comments, and falsely attributed comments
10 on the rulemaking process;

11 (3) leading practices, including policies and
12 technologies, that agencies are using to identify and
13 respond to mass comments, computer-generated
14 comments, and falsely attributed comments in the
15 rulemaking process; and

16 (4) agency efforts to respond to mass com-
17 ments, computer-generated comments, and falsely
18 attributed comments .

19 (c) GAO REPORT ON COMPUTER-GENERATED COM-
20 MENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
22 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees a report on computer-generated comments that in-
24 cludes—

1 (1) recommendations on how to identify a com-
2 puter-generated comment;

3 (2) any effect that computer-generated com-
4 ments have on the rulemaking process;

5 (3) the extent to which the public uses com-
6 puter-generated comments to participate in the rule-
7 making process at the time the report is submitted;

8 (4) how prevalent computer-generated com-
9 ments are at the time the report is submitted; and

10 (5) how prevalent the Comptroller General of
11 the United States anticipates computer-generated
12 comments will be 5 years after the date on which the
13 report is submitted.

14 **SEC. 3. NO NEW FUNDS.**

15 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
16 priated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.