

Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (ACMRA)

All legally-required agency reports to Congress should be accessible on the Government Printing Office's website, with limited exceptions. These reports contain important information about government activities. Timely online access empowers congressional and citizen oversight. **We support ACMRA, H. R. 1380**, introduced by Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL).

Access to Agency Reports

- **Agency reports are hard for Congress to find.** No archive of all reports exists. Over time, agencies and committees lose or misfile reports. Access in time or politically-sensitive circumstances can be difficult.
- **Agency reports are hard for the public to access.** While some reports are published on agency websites, citizens must often file Freedom of Information Act requests for access, which are slow and expensive for the government to process. In addition, the public often does not know a report exists.
- **Accessibility fosters accountability.** Publishing reports online allows lawmakers, citizens, journalists, and watchdog groups to see what government does and to hold it accountable.

How ACMRA Works

- **ACMRA creates a central online repository** for all reports, except the reports or portions thereof that are subject to redaction under FOIA. They are published in open formats and available for bulk download.
- **Timely access.** Upon issuance of a report, an agency submits reports to GPO, which publishes them online within 30 days.
- **Keeping track.** GPO publishes when reports are due and when they are submitted by an agency.

Background

- **Congressionally mandated reports** include all agency reports required by law to be submitted to Congress.
- **ACMRA has broad bipartisan support.** The House bill has bipartisan co-sponsors and was favorably reported by the committees of jurisdiction. The Senate version had bipartisan co-sponsors in the 112th Congress. Good government groups repeatedly have expressed their support.
- **Reports are tamper proof.** ACMRA requires agency heads to get congressional approval before changing or removing a published report from the website.
- **Cost?** The most recent CBO report estimates ACMRA would cost \$600,000 the first year and \$200,000 per year thereafter. GPO supports the measure. No additional appropriation is necessary.