

1 (B) a direct provision as defined in section  
2 404(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act  
3 of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1404) (as added by sub-  
4 section (b)).

5 EQUAL ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
6 REPORTS

7 SEC. 154. (a) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (1) CRS PRODUCT.—In this section, the term  
9 “CRS product” means any final written work prod-  
10 uct of CRS containing research or analysis in any  
11 format that is available for general congressional ac-  
12 cess on the CRS Congressional Intranet.

13 (2) CRS REPORT.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the  
15 term “CRS Report” means any written CRS  
16 product, including an update to a previous writ-  
17 ten CRS product, consisting of—

18 (i) a Congressional Research Service  
19 Report; or

20 (ii) a Congressional Research Service  
21 Authorization of Appropriations Product  
22 and Appropriations Product, which is  
23 available for general congressional access  
24 on the CRS Congressional Intranet.

1 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “CRS Re-  
2 port” does not include—

3 (i) any CRS product that is deter-  
4 mined by the CRS Director to be a con-  
5 fidential product or service because it was  
6 prepared in response to a congressional re-  
7 quest or requests for confidential analysis  
8 or research and is not available for general  
9 congressional access on the CRS Congres-  
10 sional Intranet;

11 (ii) any Congressional Research Serv-  
12 ice Report or any Congressional Research  
13 Service Authorization of Appropriations  
14 Product and Appropriations Product re-  
15 ported or produced before the effective  
16 date of this Act which, as of such effective  
17 date, is not available for general congres-  
18 sional access on the CRS Congressional  
19 Intranet; or

20 (iii) a written CRS product that has  
21 been made available by CRS for publica-  
22 tion on a public website maintained by the  
23 GPO Director (other than the Website) or  
24 the Library of Congress.

25 (3) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (A) the term “CRS” means the Congres-  
2 sional Research Service;

3 (B) the term “CRS Congressional  
4 Intranet” means the Website maintained by  
5 CRS at www.crs.gov, or a successor website, for  
6 the purpose of providing to Members and em-  
7 ployees of Congress access to information from  
8 CRS;

9 (C) the term “CRS Director” means the  
10 Director of CRS;

11 (D) the term “Librarian of Congress”  
12 means the Librarian of Congress appointed  
13 pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 136–1;

14 (E) the term “Member of Congress” in-  
15 cludes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to  
16 Congress; and

17 (F) the term “Website” means the website  
18 established and maintained under subsection  
19 (b).

20 (b) AVAILABILITY OF CRS REPORTS THROUGH LI-  
21 BRARY OF CONGRESS WEBSITE.—

22 (1) WEBSITE.—

23 (A) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTEN-  
24 NANCE.—The Librarian of Congress, in con-  
25 sultation with the CRS Director, shall establish

1           and maintain a public website containing CRS  
2           Reports and an index of all CRS Reports con-  
3           tained on the website, in accordance with this  
4           subsection.

5           (B) **FORMAT.**—On the Website, CRS Re-  
6           ports shall be searchable, sortable, and  
7           downloadable, including downloadable in bulk.

8           (C) **FREE ACCESS.**—Notwithstanding any  
9           other provision of law, the Librarian of Con-  
10          gress may not charge a fee for access to the  
11          Website.

12          (2) **UPDATES; DISCLAIMER.**—The Librarian of  
13          Congress, in consultation with the CRS Director,  
14          shall ensure that the Website—

15                (A) is updated contemporaneously, auto-  
16                matically, and electronically to include each new  
17                or updated CRS Report released on or after the  
18                effective date of this section;

19                (B) shows the status of each CRS Report  
20                as new, updated, or archived; and

21                (C) displays the following statement in ref-  
22                erence to the CRS Reports included on the  
23                Website: “These documents were prepared by  
24                the Congressional Research Service (CRS).  
25                CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to con-

1           gressional committees and Members of Con-  
2           gress. It operates solely at the behest of and  
3           under the direction of Congress. Information in  
4           a CRS Report should not be relied upon for  
5           purposes other than public understanding of in-  
6           formation that has been provided by CRS to  
7           Members of Congress in connection with CRS’s  
8           institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of  
9           the United States Government, are not subject  
10          to copyright protection in the United States.  
11          Any CRS Report may be reproduced and dis-  
12          tributed in its entirety without permission from  
13          CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include  
14          copyrighted images or material from a third  
15          party, you may need to obtain the permission of  
16          the copyright holder if you wish to copy or oth-  
17          erwise use copyrighted material.”.

18           (3) FURNISHING OF NECESSARY INFORMATION  
19          AND TECHNOLOGY.—The CRS Director shall consult  
20          with and provide assistance to the Librarian of Con-  
21          gress to ensure—

22                   (A) that the Librarian of Congress is pro-  
23                   vided with all of the information necessary to  
24                   carry out this section, including all of the infor-  
25                   mation described in clauses (i) through (iv) of

1 subsection (c)(1)(A), in such format and man-  
2 ner as the Librarian of Congress considers ap-  
3 propriate; and

4 (B) that CRS makes available any infor-  
5 mation and assistance as may be necessary to  
6 facilitate the contemporaneous, automatic, and  
7 electronic provision of CRS Reports to the Li-  
8 brarian of Congress as required under this sec-  
9 tion.

10 (4) NONEXCLUSIVITY.—The Librarian of Con-  
11 gress may publish other information on the Website.

12 (5) ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES.—The Librar-  
13 ian of Congress and the CRS Director may use addi-  
14 tional techniques to make CRS Reports available to  
15 the public, if such techniques are consistent with  
16 this section and any other applicable laws.

17 (6) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The CRS Di-  
18 rector is encouraged to make additional CRS prod-  
19 ucts that are not confidential products or services  
20 available to the Librarian of Congress for publica-  
21 tion on the Website, and the Librarian of Congress  
22 is encouraged to publish such CRS products on the  
23 Website.

24 (7) EXPANSION OF CONTENTS OF ANNUAL RE-  
25 PORT TO CONGRESS TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON

1       EFFORTS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS AVAIL-  
2       ABLE ON WEBSITE.—Section 203(i) of the Legisla-  
3       tive Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166(i)) is  
4       amended by striking the period at the end and in-  
5       serting the following: “, and shall include in the re-  
6       port a description of the efforts made by the Direc-  
7       tor to make additional Congressional Research Serv-  
8       ice products that are not confidential products or  
9       services available to the Librarian of Congress for  
10      publication on the website established and main-  
11      tained under section 124 of the Legislative Branch  
12      Appropriations Act, 2018.”.

13      (c) WEBSITE CONTENTS.—

14           (1) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTS  
15      POSTED ON WEBSITE.—

16           (A) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARIAN OF  
17      CONGRESS.—With respect to each CRS Report  
18      included on the Website, the Librarian of Con-  
19      gress shall include—

20           (i) the name and identification num-  
21      ber of the CRS Report;

22           (ii) an indication as to whether the  
23      CRS Report is new, updated, or archived;

24           (iii) the date of release of the CRS  
25      Report; and

1 (iv) any other information the Librar-  
2 ian of Congress, in consultation with the  
3 CRS Director, considers appropriate.

4 (B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CRS DIREC-  
5 TOR.—With respect to each CRS Report in-  
6 cluded on the Website, the CRS Director shall,  
7 prior to transmitting the Report to the Librar-  
8 ian of Congress—

9 (i) at the discretion of the CRS Direc-  
10 tor, remove the name of and any contact  
11 information for any employee of CRS; and

12 (ii) include in the CRS Report the fol-  
13 lowing written statement: “This document  
14 was prepared by the Congressional Re-  
15 search Service (CRS). CRS serves as non-  
16 partisan shared staff to congressional com-  
17 mittees and Members of Congress. It oper-  
18 ates solely at the behest of and under the  
19 direction of Congress. Information in a  
20 CRS Report should not be relied upon for  
21 purposes other than public understanding  
22 of information that has been provided by  
23 CRS to Members of Congress in connec-  
24 tion with CRS’s institutional role. CRS Re-  
25 ports, as a work of the United States Gov-



1           ernment, are not subject to copyright pro-  
2           tection in the United States. Any CRS Re-  
3           port may be reproduced and distributed in  
4           its entirety without permission from CRS.  
5           However, as this CRS Report may include  
6           copyrighted images or material from a  
7           third party, you may need to obtain the  
8           permission of the copyright holder if you  
9           wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted  
10          material.”.

11           (2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEX ON  
12          WEBSITE.—The Librarian of Congress shall ensure  
13          that the index of all CRS Reports published on the  
14          Website is—

15                   (A) comprehensive;

16                   (B) contemporaneously updated;

17                   (C) searchable;

18                   (D) sortable;

19                   (E) maintained in a human-readable for-  
20          mat;

21                   (F) maintained in a structured data for-  
22          mat;

23                   (G) downloadable; and

1 (H) inclusive of each item of information  
2 described in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to  
3 each CRS Report.

4 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DUTIES OF  
5 CRS.—Section 203(d) of the Legislative Reorganization  
6 Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166(d)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
8 (7);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
10 graph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
12 paragraph:

13 “(9) to comply with the requirements of, and  
14 provide information and technological assistance  
15 consistent with, section 124 of the Legislative  
16 Branch Appropriations Act, 2018.”.

17 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

18 (1) NO EFFECT ON SPEECH OR DEBATE  
19 CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed  
20 to diminish, qualify, condition, waive, or otherwise  
21 affect the applicability of clause 1 of section 6 of ar-  
22 ticle I of the Constitution of the United States (com-  
23 monly known as the “Speech or Debate Clause”) or  
24 any other privilege available to Congress or Mem-  
25 bers, offices, or employees of Congress with respect

1 to any CRS Report made available online under this  
2 section.

3 (2) CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Noth-  
4 ing in this section may be construed to waive the re-  
5 quirement that any confidential communication by  
6 CRS to a Member, office, or committee of Congress  
7 shall remain under the custody and control of Con-  
8 gress and may be released only by Congress and its  
9 Houses, Members, offices, and committees, in ac-  
10 cordance with the rules and privileges of each House  
11 and the requirements of this section.

12 (3) DISSEMINATION OF CRS PRODUCTS.—Noth-  
13 ing in this section may be construed to limit or oth-  
14 erwise affect the ability of a Member, office, or com-  
15 mittee of Congress to disseminate CRS products on  
16 a website of the Member, office, or committee or to  
17 otherwise provide CRS products to the public, in-  
18 cluding as part of constituent service activities.

19 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
21 graph (2)(C), this section and the amendments  
22 made by this section shall take effect 90 days after  
23 the date on which the Librarian of Congress submits  
24 the certification described in paragraph (2)(B).

1           (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND TECH-  
2           NOLOGY.—

3                   (A) CRS DEADLINE.—Not later than 90  
4           days after the date of enactment of this Act,  
5           the CRS Director shall provide the Librarian of  
6           Congress with the information necessary for the  
7           Librarian of Congress to begin the initial oper-  
8           ation of the Website.

9                   (B) CERTIFICATION.—Upon provision of  
10          the information described in subparagraph (A),  
11          the Librarian of Congress shall submit to Con-  
12          gress a certification that the CRS Director has  
13          provided the information necessary for the Li-  
14          brarian of Congress to begin the initial oper-  
15          ation of the Website.

16                  (C) TECHNICAL DELAYS.—In the event of  
17          technical difficulties encountered in planning or  
18          implementing the requirements of this section  
19          and the amendments made by this section, upon  
20          providing a detailed report submitted by the Li-  
21          brarian of Congress or the CRS Director to the  
22          Committees on Appropriations of the House  
23          and the Senate detailing the nature of the tech-  
24          nical difficulties and the timeline for resolving  
25          such technical difficulties, the effective date es-

1           tablished by subsection (f)(1) shall be extended  
2           for up to 90 additional days.

3           GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

4                   CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING

5                           (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

6           For authorized publishing of congressional informa-  
7   tion and the distribution of congressional information in  
8   any format; publishing of Government publications au-  
9   thorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress;  
10   and publishing, and distribution of Government publica-  
11   tions authorized by law to be distributed without charge  
12   to the recipient, \$79,528,000: *Provided*, That this appro-  
13   priation shall not be available for paper copies of the per-  
14   manent edition of the Congressional Record for individual  
15   Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates au-  
16   thorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code:  
17   *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available  
18   for the payment of obligations incurred under the appro-  
19   priations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years:  
20   *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limita-  
21   tion under section 718 of title 44, United States Code,  
22   none of the funds appropriated or made available under  
23   this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and  
24   related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of  
25   title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print