

The purpose of this Act is to make available to the citizens the spending habits and appropriations processes of the Federal government, thus increasing the accountability of the government to the people and the responsibility of the people to oversee their government.

Not later than January 1, 2009, the Congressional Research Service shall create a single operational searchable Internet website, accessible free of charge by the public, that allows the user to search information on each Federal earmark for each fiscal year after the 2007 fiscal year, including--

- (A) the name and location of the intended recipient of the earmark,
- (B) the total dollar amount of the earmark,
- (C) the Member of Congress who sponsored or requested the earmark, and
- (D) the status of the bill to which the earmark is attached.

The Congressional Research Service shall update the Internet website established under this subsection as soon as any bill or report containing an earmark has been passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof.

(b) Definitions-

(1) EARMARK- For purposes of this section, the term `earmark' means a congressionally directed spending item, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit.

(A) CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEM- For purposes of this paragraph, the term `congressionally directed spending item' means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member of Congress providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.

(B) LIMITED TAX BENEFIT- For purposes of this paragraph, the term `limited tax benefit' means any revenue provision that--

(i) provides a Federal tax deduction, credit, exclusion, or preference to a particular beneficiary or limited group of beneficiaries under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) contains eligibility criteria that are not uniform in application with respect to potential beneficiaries of such provision.

(C) LIMITED TARIFF BENEFIT- For purposes of this paragraph, the term `limited tariff benefit' means a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits 10 or fewer entities.

(2) RECIPIENT- For purposes of this section, the term `recipient' means the entity designated to receive the earmark.

(3) SEARCHABLE INTERNET WEBSITE- For purposes of this section, the term `searchable Internet website' means an Internet website that allows members of the public--

(A) to search and aggregate Federal funding for any earmark passed or reported by the Senate or the House of Representatives or any committee thereof, as well as an overall total by any method required by subsection (a)(1);

(B) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks provided to a single recipient;

(C) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks sponsored or requested by each United States Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, including Delegates and Resident Commissioners, and the President of the United States; and

(D) to ascertain through a single search the total number and total dollar amount of earmarks and earmark recipients located in each State and territory of the United States.

(c) Notification of Delay- The Director of the Congressional Research Service shall, upon making a determination that the Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) will not be operational by January 1, 2009, immediately notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives of such determination and shall provide the reason for the delay.

(d) Reports-

(1) IN GENERAL- Not later than the date that is 1 year after the date on which the Internet website established under subsection (a)(1) becomes operational, the Director of the Congressional Research Service shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of such website, including data regarding the usage of and public feedback on the utility of the website and any recommendations for improving the presentation of the data.

(2) PUBLICATION- The Congressional Research Service shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the Internet website established under subsection (a).

(e) Classified Information- Nothing in this section shall require the disclosure of classified information.

(f) Government Accountability Office Report- Not later than June 1, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance with the requirements of this section.