

S 2291

Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Nov 1, 2007

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 869.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 869. (Jul 10, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/2291>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 1, 2007
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 1, 2007
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Nov 1, 2007
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 13, 2007
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 3, 2008
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 6, 2008
Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 10, 2008
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 11, 2008
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 13, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 10, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 3548	Related bill	Aug 1, 2008: Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 929.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007 - Requires each executive agency, not later than one year after enactment of this Act, to use plain language in any covered document issued or substantially revised after the enactment of this Act. Defines "covered document" to include: (1) documents that provide information about any government requirement or program or that are relevant to obtaining any government benefit or service; and (2) letters, publications, forms, notices, or instructions.

Requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance on implementing such requirements to agencies as a circular. Authorizes agencies, pending issuance of such guidance, to follow the guidance of the Plain English Handbook published by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the plain language guidelines developed by the Plain Language Action and Information Network, or their own plain language guidance as long as it is consistent with the Network's guidelines.

Requires each agency head to report to specified congressional committees on how the agency intends to: (1) communicate the requirements of this Act to employees; (2) train employees to write in plain language; (3) meet the plain language requirement; (4) ensure ongoing compliance with this Act; and (5) designate a senior official to be responsible for implementing this Act. Requires: (1) agency heads to report on compliance to OMB; and (2) OMB to report on the progress of agencies to such committees.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 10, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman without amendment. With written report No. 110-412.
- **Jul 10, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 869.
- **Apr 10, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Nov 6, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S13985-13986)
- **Nov 1, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 1, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S13691-13692)
- **Nov 1, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S13692)