

## HR 946

Plain Writing Act of 2010

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Feb 10, 2009

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 111-274.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 111-274. (Oct 13, 2010)

**Law:** 111-274 (Enacted Oct 13, 2010)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/946>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Braley, Bruce L. [D-IA-1]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Feb 25, 2009
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Feb 25, 2009
Rep. Boswell, Leonard L. [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Mar 3, 2009
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Mar 3, 2009
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 3, 2009
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-13]	D · NJ		Mar 25, 2009
Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Apr 1, 2009
Rep. Watt, Melvin L. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		May 13, 2009
Rep. Dahlkemper, Kathleen A. [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Jun 23, 2009
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 2, 2010

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Reported By	Mar 11, 2010

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 574	Related bill	Dec 9, 2009: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 222.

**(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on September 27, 2010. The summary of that version is repeated here.)**

Plain Writing Act of 2010 - Requires the head of each executive agency to: (1) designate one or more senior officials within the agency to oversee the agency's implementation of this Act; (2) communicate this Act's requirements to the agency's employees; (3) train agency employees in "plain writing" (defined as writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience); (4) establish a process for overseeing the agency's ongoing compliance with this Act's requirements; (5) create and maintain a plain writing section of the agency's website that shall inform the public of agency compliance with the requirements of this Act, provide a mechanism for the agency to receive and respond to public input on agency implementation and agency reports required under this Act, and be accessible from its homepage; and (6) designate one or more agency points-of-contact to receive and respond to public input on the implementation of this Act.

Requires each agency, by one year after enactment, to use plain writing in every covered document of the agency that the agency issues or substantially revises. Defines "covered document" to: (1) mean any document that is necessary for obtaining any federal benefit or service or filing taxes, that provides information about any federal benefit or service, or that explains to the public how to comply with a requirement the federal government administers or enforces; (2) include (whether in paper or electronic form) a letter, publication, form, notice, or instruction; and (3) exclude a regulation.

Requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), by six months after enactment, to develop and issue guidance on implementing the requirements of this Act. Authorizes the Director to designate a lead agency and to use interagency working groups to assist in developing and issuing the guidance. Sets forth provisions regarding: (1) an interim guidance; (2) initial and annual compliance reports; and (3) judicial review and enforceability.

Requires the budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, to be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Oct 13, 2010:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 13, 2010:** Became Public Law No: 111-274.
- **Oct 1, 2010:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 29, 2010:** Mr. Clay moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments. (consideration: CR H7314-7316)
- **Sep 29, 2010:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 946.
- **Sep 29, 2010:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 29, 2010:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H7371-7372)
- **Sep 29, 2010:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 341 - 82 (Roll no. 562).(text as House agreed to Senate amendments: CR H7314)
- **Sep 29, 2010:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 341 - 82 (Roll no. 562). (text as House agreed to Senate amendments: CR H7314)
- **Sep 29, 2010:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 29, 2010:** Cleared for White House.
- **Sep 28, 2010:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 27, 2010:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7556)
- **Sep 27, 2010:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S7556)
- **Sep 27, 2010:** Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S7556)
- **Mar 18, 2010:** Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 321.
- **Mar 17, 2010:** Mr. Clay moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Mar 17, 2010:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1538-1540)
- **Mar 17, 2010:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 946.
- **Mar 17, 2010:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Mar 17, 2010:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H1560)
- **Mar 17, 2010:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 386 - 33 (Roll no. 126).(text: CR H1538)
- **Mar 17, 2010:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 386 - 33 (Roll no. 126). (text: CR H1538)
- **Mar 17, 2010:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 11, 2010:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government. H. Rept. 111-432.
- **Mar 11, 2010:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 248.
- **Mar 4, 2010:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 4, 2010:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Feb 10, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 10, 2009:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.