

**House Republican Conference
Office of Committee Relations**

J.C.WATTS, JR.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2001

The House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business.
No votes are expected past 12:00 p.m.

Bill Pursuant to a Rule (1 bill):

H.R. 327 – Small Business Paperwork Relief Act

Floor Situation

Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule with one hour of debate that makes in order a substitute printed in the *Congressional Record* as base text. The rule also makes the substitute open to amendment by section and permits a motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Summary

H.R. 327 amends the 1995 Paperwork Reduction Act (*P.L. 104-13*) to continue congressional efforts to streamline and reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses. Specific provisions of the bill include:

Annual Publication of Federal Paperwork Requirements. The bill requires the Director of OMB to authorize the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) to publish a list annually in the *Federal Register* and on the Internet of all federal paperwork requirements for small businesses. The list will be organized by industry type according to the North American Industrial Classification System.

Establishment of Agency Point of Contact for Small Business. The bill requires each agency to establish one point of contact to act as a liaison between small businesses and the agency regarding paperwork requirements and the control of paperwork.

Paperwork Reduction for Businesses with Fewer than 25 Employees. The bill requires each agency to make further efforts to reduce paperwork for small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, in addition to meeting the paperwork reduction requirements of the Act.

Task Force on the Feasibility of Streamlining Reporting Requirements. The bill establishes a task force to study the feasibility of streamlining reporting requirements for small businesses. The administrator of OIRA will appoint the members of the task force. The members will include at least one representative from five different agencies, including Labor, Transportation, and the EPA. The task force will examine the feasibility of requiring the agencies to consolidate reporting requirements so that each small business may submit all information required by the agency to one point of contact at the agency, in a single format or using a single electronic reporting system. After one year, the task force must report its findings to the House Government Reform and Small Business Committees, as well as the Senate Governmental Affairs and Small Business Committees.

Legislative History/Cost Estimate

H.R. 327 was introduced by Mr. Burton on January 31, 2001. The measure was referred to the House Committees on Government Reform and Small Business, but was not considered by either committee. A similar bill, H.R. 391, passed the House on February 11, 1999 by a vote of 274 – 151.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provided a preliminary estimate of the budgetary impact of H.R. 327, saying that the bill will result in a minimal cost for federal agencies each year. Because the bill will not affect direct spending or governmental receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

OMB Statement of Administration Policy

The White House, through the Office of Management and Budget, issues Statements of Administration Policy (SAPs) on legislation scheduled for House or Senate floor action. Each statement is current as of the date it was transmitted and has not been updated to reflect subsequent action.

Amendments

At press time, the *Office of Committee Relations* was aware of the following amendment:

Mr. Ose will offer a manager's amendment adding a clarification that the annual list of requirements applicable to small businesses shall be organized in such a way that small businesses can easily identify requirements with which they are expected to comply. The amendment states that the change in the organization of the requirements shall not negatively impact the effectiveness of the underlying laws.

The amendment specifically changes the Task Force provision of H.R. 327 by (1) adding the Department of the Treasury as a member since the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) accounts for nearly 80 percent of all paperwork burden on the public; (2) requiring the report generated by the task force to be submitted not only to Congress but also to OMB; and (3) adding, as a responsibility of the task force, the requirement of issuing a report in two years on recommendations for interactive, electronic reporting with on-line editing, electronic dissemination, and coordination across agencies so that agency single points of contact can provide small businesses with information from other agencies. **Staff Contact: Barbara Kahlow 5-4407**

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