

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To put a public price tag on all projects supported with taxpayer dollars.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To put a public price tag on all projects supported with taxpayer dollars.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cost Openness and
5 Spending Transparency Act of 2026” or the “COST Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL**
7 **FUNDS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 13 of
9 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

1 **“§ 1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds**

2 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘agency’
3 means—

4 “(1) an Executive agency, as defined in section
5 105 of title 5; and

6 “(2) an independent regulatory agency, as de-
7 fined in section 3502 of title 44.

8 “(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—An agency and
9 an individual or entity (including a State or local govern-
10 ment and a recipient of a Federal research grant) carrying
11 out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole or in
12 part, carried out using Federal funds shall clearly state
13 in any statement, press release, request for proposals, bid
14 solicitation, or other document describing the program,
15 project, or activity, other than a communication con-
16 taining not more than 280 characters—

17 “(1) the percentage of the total costs of the
18 program, project, or activity which will be financed
19 with Federal funds;

20 “(2) the dollar amount of the Federal funds
21 made available for the program, project, or activity;
22 and

23 “(3) the percentage of the total costs of, and
24 dollar amount for, the program, project, or activity
25 that will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

1 “(c) CERTIFICATION.—An individual or entity car-
2 rying out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole
3 or in part, carried out using Federal funds shall, as part
4 of the performance progress reporting regarding the pro-
5 gram, project, or activity, include a certification indicating
6 whether the individual or entity complied with the disclo-
7 sure requirements under subsection (b) with respect to
8 communications containing not more than 280 characters
9 relating to the program, project, or activity.

10 “(d) COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—The Director of the Of-
11 fice of Management and Budget shall annually—

12 “(1) review a random sampling of public com-
13 munications issued by agencies and recipients of
14 Federal funds for compliance with the disclosure re-
15 quirements under subsection (b); and

16 “(2) make publicly available the findings of the
17 review under paragraph (1).

18 “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of enactment of this section, the Director
20 of the Office of Management and Budget shall make avail-
21 able to the public a mechanism to anonymously report
22 communications that do not comply with the disclosure re-
23 quirements under subsection (b), which shall require that
24 such a report include—

1 “(1) the noncompliant communication or, if
2 publicly available, the location of the noncompliant
3 communication; and

4 “(2) identifying information regarding the pro-
5 gram, project, or activity that is, in whole or in part,
6 carried out using Federal funds.”.

7 (b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—
8 The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 13 of
9 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

“1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds.”.