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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EMMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To establish a website for Federal Government apps, and
for other purposes.

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 “Advancing and Pro-
5 moting Programming” or the “APP Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) 84 percent of leading app makers are out-
2 side Silicon Valley, and 83 percent are small busi-
3 nesses.

4 (2) Millions have participated in the Hour of
5 Code, which teaches the fundamental components of
6 computer programming.

7 (3) The Congressional App Challenge is an offi-
8 cially sanctioned competition to promote computer
9 science education and demonstrate the value of cod-
10 ing to the next generation.

11 (4) Computer Science majors earn 40 percent
12 more than the average college graduates.

13 (5) In 2016, China surpassed the United States
14 in app store revenue.

15 (6) The current extent of a Federal mobile app
16 directory exists as a text list on a General Services
17 Administration website.

18 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
19 gress that—

20 (1) computer science skills are critical to a bur-
21 geoning technology industry, and will provide high-
22 quality jobs for America’s future workforce;

23 (2) the Federal Government has an obligation
24 to provide information and services through a means

1 that meets the technology demands of our changing
2 society; and

3 (3) among other fields, computer programming
4 jobs are a way to ensure America keeps the highest-
5 quality jobs and remains a world economic leader.

6 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE FOR APPS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE.—Not later than
8 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
9 Administrator of General Services shall establish a pub-
10 licly available website that includes a database of Federal
11 funding opportunities for the creation of apps, allows the
12 public to download a Federal Government app that has
13 been made available to the public, and includes the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (1) A list of each funding source (including
16 grants and prizes) for the creation and maintenance
17 of Federal Government apps and how an applicant
18 may apply for such funding, including resources
19 such as grants.gov, challenge.gov, and the Small
20 Business Innovation Research program.

21 (2) The ability for the public to rate and review
22 any such Federal Government app.

23 (3) A page that prominently displays apps that
24 have been recently updated or that receive a high
25 user review average under paragraph (2).

1 (4) A page that features Government projects
2 that provide application developers with tools to im-
3 prove private apps, such as data.gov and devel-
4 oper.epa.gov.

5 (5) Resources for education and training re-
6 lated to the creation of apps.

7 (6) A page that features outstanding, edu-
8 cational, computer science programs, determined by
9 the Administrator of General Services and the Direc-
10 tor of the National Science Foundation, and re-
11 sources to replicate such programs.

12 (b) REVIEW AND REMOVAL OF OUTDATED APPS.—
13 The Administrator of General Services shall review any
14 app for which an update has not been released in more
15 than 2 years and shall remove any app from the website
16 described in subsection (a) that is no longer functional or
17 compatible.

18 (c) APP DEFINED.—In this section, the term “app”
19 means a software application that enables the performance
20 of a specific task that may be run on a computer, a mobile
21 device, the Internet, or any other electronic device.

22 **SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

23 No additional funds are authorized to carry out the
24 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-
25 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.