H. R. 3371

To amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to establish public disclosure requirements for working groups of advisory committees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2001

Mr. Waxman (for himself, Mr. Matsui, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Owens, Mr. Kanjorski, Mrs. Maloney of New York, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Pomeroy, and Mr. Becerra) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to establish public disclosure requirements for working groups of advisory committees.

- 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 "Federal Advisory Com-
- 5 mittee Transparency Act of 2001".

| 1 | SEC. 2. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FED- |
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| 2 | ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING |
| 3 | GROUPS. |
| 4 | (a) Working Group Defined.—Section 3 of the |
| 5 | Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.) is |
| 6 | amended by adding at the end the following: |
| 7 | "(5) The term 'working group' means any com- |
| 8 | mittee, board, commission, council, conference, |
| 9 | panel, task force, or other similar group, or any sub- |
| 10 | committee or other subgroup thereof, that is estab- |
| 11 | lished or utilized by an advisory committee to— |
| 12 | "(A) gather information, develop work |
| 13 | plans, perform studies, draft reports, or discuss |
| 14 | preliminary findings with agency employees; or |
| 15 | "(B) conduct deliberations, prepare re- |
| 16 | ports, or make recommendations to the advisory |
| 17 | committee.". |
| 18 | (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING GROUPS.—The |
| 19 | Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 App. U.S.C.) is |
| 20 | amended by striking section 16 and inserting the fol- |
| 21 | lowing: |
| 22 | "TREATMENT OF WORKING GROUPS |
| 23 | "Sec. 16. (a) Notice of Establishment or Uti- |
| 24 | LIZATION.—An advisory committee shall publish notice of |
| 25 | the establishment or utilization of any working group by |

- 1 the advisory committee, by not later than 15 days after
- 2 the date of that establishment or utilization, respectively.
- 3 "(b) Procedures; Availability of Tran-
- 4 SCRIPTS.—A working group shall be treated as an advi-

5 sory committee for purposes of sections 10 and 11.".

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