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## Information Legislation of the 96th Congress, 3 Computer L.J. 125 (1981)

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# INFORMATION LEGISLATION OF THE 96TH CONGRESS

by JERRY BORRELL\*

A search of the SCORPIO system of the Library of Congress indicates that 857 bills dealing with information services, information storage and retrieval systems, or data transmission systems were introduced in the Ninety-sixth Congress. One-hundred thirteen of these bills became laws, sixty of which are summarized in this Article.<sup>1</sup> A review of these laws will enable the reader to understand how Congress has dealt with information-related issues.

The laws may be characterized generally as falling into one of five major areas of legislative concern: government, business, the public, states, and automatic data processing. The chart below shows the approximate percentage of all information legislation that is represented by each of these categories.

## INFORMATION LEGISLATION BY APPROXIMATE REPRESENTATION

Government uses or control of Information	Public uses of Information	Business uses of Information	States uses of Information	ADP Implementa- tion
55%	16%	15%	10%	4%

These figures are intended only as an index to the primary concerns of legislative interest; they cannot be considered absolute because of the subtle and fluid definitions given to "information." The legislation summarized in Appendix 2 has a number of characteristics that taken together make up one definition. These characteristics are:

- collection of data/information
- dissemination of information
- limiting duplication of information collection
- protection of information

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1. See Appendix 1 *infra*.

- directed research
- establishment or support of libraries/ADP/or information clearinghouses
- data communications
- access to information
- exchange of information
- financial/economic information
- managing information
- information networks
- publication
- management of information
- information policy organization of agencies concerned with the above
- enforcement of the above

The statistics quoted above may be misleading since many of the five categories are found in combination in the laws, and because legislation in the categories of government and ADP have especially powerful multiplier effects. The Paperwork Reduction Act,<sup>2</sup> for instance, is one law that will have widespread and at times contradictory effects upon the government's handling of information over the next several years. Similarly, a law may not mention the procurement or use of ADP at all, but acquisition and use of this equipment may be implicit in effective implementation of the statute.

Another significant factor affecting the reliability of the categorical percentages is the failure of the survey to consider those bills that were introduced but failed to become law because of their controversial nature. Foremost among those bills are amendments to the Communications Act of 1934, the Medical Records Information bill, legislation relating to the press and first amendment rights, international information flows (TDF), and the information-institute concept. Much of this legislation has been re-introduced and is receiving intensive consideration by the Ninety-seventh Congress.

Looking at the list of laws, one is reminded of some of the cliches of a growing "information society." A study of all legislation of the century, however, might show us that our feelings about the effects and growth of information legislation "is a transformation of perception as much as reality, for society has of course always been based upon information. But until the coming of modern electronics, we did not think of class relationships, government, economics, and diplomacy as if they were mere functions of information transfer."<sup>3</sup>

Beyond this consideration are the more intangible qualities of "information," such as appropriated funds, published volumes, processed transactions, and dollar values of sales or exports, that lend themselves to quantification. The quality of information col-

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2. Pub. L. No. 96-511, 94 Stat. 2812 (1980).

3. A. SMITH, *THE GEOPOLITICS OF INFORMATION* 112 (1980).

lected and published is another matter. Directing the collection, publication, or research is done easily enough, but as is often the case, the implementation ignores intent. Legislation may demand, but cannot create, reliability or accuracy. Those most likely to be affected by the legislation often are directed to carry out its terms.

The overall effect of the considered legislation is to create or perpetuate a cycle of research, collection, and dissemination of information. One is piqued by this long, repetitive effort; admirable though it is, what portion actually achieves the originators' intent?

**APPENDIX 1**  
**NUMERIC ARRANGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAWS OF THE 96TH CONGRESS AFFECTING INFORMATION**

	1979	
Pub. L. No. 96-3, 93 Stat. 5	(S. 37)	Amendments to Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978
Pub. L. No. 96-39, 93 Stat. 144	(H.R. 4537)	Trade Agreements Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-46, 93 Stat. 338	(H.R. 4591)	Amendments to the Education Amendments of 1978
Pub. L. No. 96-53, 93 Stat. 359	(H.R. 3324)	International Development Cooperation Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-72, 93 Stat. 503	(S. 737)	Export Administration Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-79, 93 Stat. 592	(S. 544)	Health Planning and Resources Development Amendments of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-83, 93 Stat. 648	(S. 756)	Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act Amendments of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-102, 93 Stat. 749	(S. 1030)	Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-129, 93 Stat. 989	(S. 411)	Pipeline Safety Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-132, 93 Stat. 1040	(S. 1157)	Department of Justice Appropriation Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-153, 93 Stat. 1101	(H.R. 3875)	Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-157, 93 Stat. 1167	(S. 241)	Justice System Improvement Act of 1979
Pub. L. No. 96-161, 93 Stat. 1233	(H.R. 4998)	Amendments to The Federal Reserve Act
Pub. L. No. 96-180, 93 Stat. 1301	(S. 440)	Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1979
		1980
Pub. L. No. 96-190, 94 Stat. 17	(S. 423)	Dispute Resolution Act
Pub. L. No. 96-212, 94 Stat. 102	(S. 643)	Refugee Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-221, 94 Stat. 132	(H.R. 4986)	Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-249, 94 Stat. 357	(S. 1309)	Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-252, 94 Stat. 374	(H.R. 2313)	Federal Trade Commission Improvements Act of 1980

## Appendix 1-continued

Pub. L. No. 96-259, 94 Stat. 429	(S. 662)	Inter-American and Asian Development Banks and African Development Fund
Pub. L. No. 96-265, 94 Stat. 441	(H.R. 3236)	Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-270, 94 Stat. 487	(S. 1658)	Asbestos School Hazard Detection and Control Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-272, 94 Stat. 500	(H.R. 3434)	Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-275, 94 Stat. 539	(H.R. 6842)	Shippers' Export Declarations—Confidentiality
Pub. L. No. 96-294, 94 Stat. 611	(S. 932)	Energy Security Act
Pub. L. No. 96-295, 94 Stat. 780	(S. 562)	Authorization, Appropriations—Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Pub. L. No. 96-302, 94 Stat. 833	(S. 2698)	Small Business Administration
Pub. L. No. 96-310, 94 Stat. 941	(H.R. 7474)	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Research, Development and Demonstration Act
Pub. L. No. 96-320, 94 Stat. 974	(S. 2492)	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-345, 94 Stat. 1139	(H.R. 5892)	Wind Energy Systems Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-349, 94 Stat. 1154	(S. 390)	Antitrust Procedural Improvements Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-355, 94 Stat. 1171	(S. 670)	Rural Development Policy Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-362, 94 Stat. 1198	(S. 1650)	National Aquaculture Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-364, 94 Stat. 1208	(H.R. 3904)	Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-374, 94 Stat. 1367	(H.R. 5192)	Education Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-385, 94 Stat. 1528	(H.R. 7511)	Veterans' Disability Compensation and Housing Benefits Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-386, 94 Stat. 1539	(H.R. 3608)	Magnetic Fusion Energy Engineering Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-398, 94 Stat. 1564	(S. 1177)	Mental Health Systems Act
Pub. L. No. 96-399, 94 Stat. 1614	(H.R. 2719)	Housing and Community Development Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-433, 94 Stat. 1855	(H.R. 7939)	Amendments to the Securities Investor Protection Act
Pub. L. No. 96-440, 94 Stat. 1879	(S. 1790)	Privacy Protection Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-448, 94 Stat. 1895	(S. 1946)	Staggers Rail Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-456, 94 Stat. 2025	(S. 1482)	Classified Information Procedures Act

## Appendix 1-continued

Pub. L. No. 96-458, 94 Stat. 2035	(S. 1873)	Judicial Councils Reform and Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-461, 94 Stat. 2049	(S. 2320)	National Bureau of Standards Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1981 and 1982
Pub. L. No. 96-466, 94 Stat. 2171	(H.R. 5288)	Veterans' Rehabilitation and Education Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-470, 94 Stat. 2237	(H.R. 6686)	Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-479, 94 Stat. 2305	(H.R. 2743)	National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-480, 94 Stat. 2311	(S. 1250)	Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-481, 94 Stat. 2321	(H.R. 5612)	Small Business Export Expansion Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-482, 94 Stat. 2334	(S. 1156)	Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-509, 94 Stat. 2750	(S. 2441)	Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-511, 94 Stat. 2812	(H.R. 6410)	Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-515, 94 Stat. 2987	(H.R. 5496)	National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-517, 94 Stat. 3015	(H.R. 6993)	Patent and Trademark Laws
Pub. L. No. 96-538, 94 Stat. 3183	(S. 988)	Health Programs Extension Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-567, 94 Stat. 3329	(H.R. 7865)	Nuclear Safety Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1980
Pub. L. No. 96-598, 94 Stat. 3485	(H.R. 3317)	Internal Revenue Code of 1954—Excise Tax Refunds for Certain Uses
Pub. L. No. 96-603, 94 Stat. 3503	(H.R. 4155)	Simplification of Private Foundation Return—Reporting Requirements
Pub. L. No. 96-605, 94 Stat. 3521	(H.R. 7956)	Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1980

**APPENDIX 2**  
**ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATION FROM THE 96TH CONGRESS**  
**RELATING TO INFORMATION**  
**1979**

*Pub. L. No. 96-3* Amendments to Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978. Repeals the section of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 that requires financial institutions to notify all their customers of their rights regarding disclosure of financial records to government agencies.

*Pub. L. No. 96-39* Trade Agreements Act of 1979. Establishes within the Department of Commerce a standards information center that collects and disseminates information on domestic and international standards (trade barriers).

*Pub. L. No. 96-46* Amendments to the Education Amendments of 1978. Stipulates that state and local educational officials shall not be barred from access to student records necessary to the audit or evaluation of any federally-supported education program.

Amends the Vocational Education Act of 1963 to authorize the modification of certain annual reporting requirements so that duplication of data collection will be avoided.

Specifies that data collected under the Indian Education Act shall not modify the eligibility definition of qualified participants under such Act.

*Pub. L. No. 96-53* International Development Cooperation Act of 1979. Establishes a center to collect, maintain, and disseminate information as an international clearinghouse and to furnish information to business enterprises regarding business opportunities in developing assistance programs.

Authorizes the President to include research, training, and scientific interchanges in cooperative energy programs with developing countries.

Authorizes the President to establish a Council on International Scientific and Technical Cooperation to: 1) assist developing countries to strengthen their technological capacity; 2) foster the exchange of scientists and other technical interchange; and 3) advise federal agencies and domestic businesses as to scientific and technical cooperation with developing countries.

*Pub. L. No. 96-72* Export Administration Act of 1979. Requires the Secretary of Commerce to keep the public informed of export control policy and procedures. Directs the Secretary to maintain, as part of the commodity control list, a list of goods or technology subject to national security controls.



Requires Federal agencies and departments to furnish information regarding foreign availability to the Office of Export Administration.

Requires U.S. citizens to report to the Secretary of State any agreements to export unpublished technical data to countries to which exports are restricted for national security purposes. Excludes educational institutions from such requirements.

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to collect data regarding export sales of specified commodities.

Requires the Secretary of Commerce to seek information and recommendations about exports from other appropriate agencies and requires such agencies to cooperate fully.

Requires the Secretary of Commerce and other agencies to keep records of all export applications, including any dissenting agency recommendations.

Authorizes the head of any department or agency exercising any function under this Act, the Export Act of 1949, or the Export Administration Act of 1969 to make such investigations as are necessary. Prohibits the disclosure of confidential information obtained prior to June 30, 1980. Permits such information to be released in the national interest after such date.

*Pub. L. No. 96-79* Health Planning and Resources Development Amendments of 1979. Excludes meetings dealing with HSA employees that, if public, would be an unwarranted invasion of such employee's privacy from the current requirement that HSA governing body meetings be public.

Requires a state agency to provide technical assistance to individuals and public and private entities in obtaining and filling out the necessary forms for the development of projects and programs.

*Pub. L. No. 96-83* Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act Amendments of 1979. Directs the Administrator of the Federal Procurement Policy to develop a uniform procurement system that includes uniform policies, regulations, procedures, and forms to be used for the procurement of property and services by executive agencies and by recipients of federal grants or assistance. Also directs the Administrator to develop a central management system, consisting of the Office of Management and Budget, the General Services Administration, and procurement offices of executive agencies, to implement such a procurement system.

Lists as other duties of the Administrator the establishment of a Federal Procurement Data Center, a computer based information system for collecting, developing, and disseminating procurement data.

Establishes a Federal Acquisition Institute within the Office that will promote and conduct research in procurement policies.

Declares that nothing in the Act will affect the authorities or responsibilities for procurement of automatic data processing and telecommunications equipment and services established under the Federal Property and Administration Services Act of 1949.

*Pub. L. No. 96-102* Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979. Directs the Secretary of Energy to use the authority provided under the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 to secure any information necessary to carry out an emergency conservation program.

*Pub. L. No. 96-129* Pipeline Safety Act of 1979. Authorizes the Secretary of Energy to conduct investigations, make reports, issue subpoenas, conduct hearings, and perform other specified duties.

*Pub. L. No. 96-132* Department of Justice Appropriation Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1980. Prohibits the use of appropriated funds to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire message-switched equipment until approved by the Judiciary Committees of the House and Senate.

Directs the Attorney General to submit a plan to the Judiciary Committees of the Congress, for the activation and coordination, within the Department, of a compatible, comprehensive case management information and tracking system for each of the divisions of the Department. Sets forth the areas of information to be included in such a plan.

*Pub. L. No. 96-153* Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1979. Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, and the Secretary of Agriculture to employ uniform forms in their housing financing transactions and to eliminate forms that solicit duplicative information. Requires the Office of Management and Budget to coordinate these efforts and to report to Congress on the implementation of such paperwork reduction.

*Pub. L. No. 96-157* Justice System Improvement Act of 1979. Specifies the duties of the Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, including the provision of financial and technical assistance for the development of operational information and telecommunications systems.

Establishes a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to promote the collection and analysis of statistical information. The BJS provides information on justice statistics to the President, Congress, the judiciary, state and local governments, and the general public, and col-

lects information concerning white collar criminal victimization and other subjects.

Requires each state to designate by law and maintain a criminal justice council that will provide technical assistance and information, auditing, evaluation, and other services for law enforcement.

*Pub. L. No. 96-161* Amendments to the Federal Reserve Act. Permits member banks in the Federal Reserve Deposit System and federally insured nonmember banks to offer automatic funds transfer services between savings and checking accounts to individuals.

*Pub. L. No. 96-180* Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1979. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, on request of any state, to provide technical assistance for specified purposes, including establishment of systems of data collection, program management, accountability, evaluation, and accreditation of treatment facilities and personnel.

#### 1980

*Pub. L. No. 96-190* Dispute Resolution Act. Encourages each state to develop sufficient numbers and types of dispute resolution mechanisms and a public information program to communicate to potential users the availability and location of such mechanisms. Establishes a center to serve as a national clearinghouse for the exchange of information concerning the improvement of existing and the establishment of new dispute resolution mechanisms and to undertake an information program to advise potential grant recipients of the availability and eligibility requirements for funds under the Act.

Provides access for the Attorney General to any relevant records, books, papers, documents, and records of grant recipients for purposes of audit and examination. Restricts the authority of the Attorney General to compiling information necessary to the filing of the annual report required under this Act. Prohibits the use or disclosure of such information in or for any administrative, civil, or criminal action or investigation against the individual or business, except in the cases of auditing.

*Pub. L. No. 96-212* Refugee Act of 1980. Directs the Cabinet officers whose agencies deal with refugee matters to report to the House and Senate Committees dealing with refugees, and directs them to collect and provide relevant information to the committees. This information includes, but is not limited to, refugee situations, numbers of refugees, and analysis of the effects of refugee relocation on social, economic, and demographic matters.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of State to develop a system to monitor all refugee assistance provided under the Act. Directs the Attorney General to provide refugee adjustment status information to the Director of Refugee Affairs in the Health and Human Services Agency.

*Pub. L. No. 96-221* Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980. Authorizes the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to require all federal and state banks, thrift institutions, and credit unions to submit such periodic financial reports as the Board determines to be necessary for it to control monetary and credit aggregates.

Establishes a Depository Institutions Deregulation Committee and requires the committee to collect information and submit annual reports to Congress on the economic viability of all depository institutions, including assessments on various fiscal factors.

Permits federal savings and loan associations to establish remote service units for checking, and interest bearing deposits accounts (NOW) for checking.

Requires that consumer protection information be supplied on all manufactured homes.

Directs the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to issue model forms and clauses for use in common transactions. Revises disclosure requirements for some transactions. Reduces disclosure requirements for some purposes. Sets forth penalties for creditors who fail or inaccurately disclose information required by this Act.

*Pub. L. No. 96-249* Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980. Makes cost-sharing funds of fifty to sixty-five percent (depending on level of efficiency) available to state agencies for the establishment and operation of an automatic data processing and information retrieval system to provide efficient and effective administration of the food stamp program.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to permit the Commissioner of Social Security to disclose to employees of the Department of Agriculture and state food stamp agencies specified return information necessary to determining an individual's eligibility for benefits or the amounts of benefits under the food stamp program.

*Pub. L. No. 96-252* Federal Trade Commission Improvements Act of 1980. Directs the FTC to reopen any cease and desist order if the person subject to the order files a request that makes a satisfactory showing of the changed conditions warranting the modification or setting aside of such order.

Requires the FTC to publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

Requires that twenty-five percent of the total compensation per fiscal year be set aside for persons who would be regulated by the proposed rule.

Directs the FTC to establish a small business outreach program to solicit comment from small businesses that would not be represented adequately at such proceedings.

Specifies and clarifies procedures with respect to the disclosure of material obtained by compulsory process for law enforcement purposes, the disclosure of confidential commercial and financial information, the disclosure of trade secrets, and the confidentiality of line-of-business reports.

Suspends the children's advertising proceedings until the Commission complies with a new rulemaking procedure, that requires the FTC to include in the rulemaking notice the text of the rule and its alternatives.

Exempts the business of insurance from the investigative and reporting powers of the FTC, except for investigations relating to antitrust violations. Permits the Commission to conduct studies and prepare reports on the business of insurance only by congressional request.

*Pub. L. No. 96-259* Inter-American and Asian Development Banks and African Development Fund. Stipulates the information to be collected and made available to Congress by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury regarding United States participation in international monetary institutions.

Directs the Secretary of State to collect information on human rights policies of the United States toward countries who have had poor records, and to provide this information to the committees involved with international monetary affairs.

*Pub. L. No. 96-265* Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980. Requires any governmental entity subject to the Act to provide safeguards that restrict the use or disclosure of information collected in connection with any audit or similar activity under the titles of the Act.

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to each state with a plan approved under such part ninety percent of the costs of planning, installing, or enhancing an automatic data processing and information retrieval system designed to assist in the administration of other parts of the Act. States that the objective of such system shall be to monitor and account for payments and enforcement, and to provide information on all cases.

Also directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to a state ninety percent of the expenditures for development of mechanized claims processing and information retrieval systems designed to provide more effective services.

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make available to Medicare beneficiaries information as to the value of supplementary policies, and to study supplementary policies in order to make this information available to Congress.

*Pub. L. No. 96-270* Asbestos School Hazard Detection and Control Act of 1980. Establishes the Asbestos Hazards School Safety Task Force. States that such Task Force's duties shall include compiling medical, scientific, and technical materials and disseminating them to state and local entities.

Provides states applying for federal funds with methods for disseminating information on the health hazards of asbestos, and describes the procedure to be used by states in compiling records on asbestos.

*Pub. L. No. 96-272* Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. Requires each state to develop a plan that will be approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, that will direct the collection of information for reporting under the Act, and that will maintain records for purposes outlined in the Act, such as statistical reporting.

Directs each state to establish an information network on children in foster care, including a review of care for each child.

*Pub. L. No. 96-275* Shippers' Export Declarations—Confidentiality. Specifies the information to be included on such manifest or attached documents and the elements of such information that shall be available for public disclosure. Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to establish procedures to provide access to the information that may be disclosed and protection for the information that may not be disclosed.

*Pub. L. No. 96-294* Energy Security Act. Creates the United States Synthetic Fuels Corporation and stipulates public access to information regarding the corporation.

Permits the Corporation to use the information, data, advice, and/or recommendations of any federal agency to assist in decisions relating to the provision of financial assistance for synthetic fuel projects. Sets forth the conditions for the receipt of specified information.

Directs the Secretary of Energy to establish and conduct an accelerated research, development, and demonstration program for

promoting the commercial viability of processes for the recovery of energy from municipal wastes.

Provides grants to support the dissemination of information regarding the results of research on energy conservation techniques.

*Pub. L. No. 96-295* Authorization, Appropriations—Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Directs the Commission to develop a plan of response to accidents, including an uninterrupted telecommunications link for all facilities.

Requires reporting information regarding extraordinary nuclear occurrences to Congress and pertinent officials of a state.

Directs a review of emergency information reporting systems for nuclear facilities.

*Pub. L. No. 96-302* Small Business Administration. Directs the administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish and maintain an economic data base on small business and to report annually a comparative analysis and interpretation of the historical trends of the small business sector.

Requires publication of national and, to the extent feasible, regional small business economic indices including employment, business sales, capital investment, inventory, and other related data.

*Pub. L. No. 96-310* Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Research, Development, and Demonstration Act. Directs the Secretary of Energy to initiate a program to design, construct, and operate ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) facilities of sufficient size to demonstrate the technical feasibility of using various forms of OTEC to displace renewable fuels. Directs evaluations, tests, and dissemination of results to promote further development.

*Pub. L. No. 96-320* Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980. Outlines the power of the Secretary of Energy to require information from applicants for OTEC construction permits. States that one purpose of the Act is to observe the effects of OTEC devices on the environment. Directs the publication of environmental impact statements.

States the conditions of the availability of information concerning OTEC facilities.

*Pub. L. No. 96-345* Wind Energy Systems Act of 1980. Directs the Secretary of Energy to initiate research and development or to accelerate existing research in which the lack of knowledge limits the widespread use of wind energy systems.

Directs the Secretary of Energy to initiate a three-year national wind-resource assessment program that will validate existing knowledge, initiate research, establish standard wind data collection and siting techniques, and establish a national wind data center.

*Pub. L. No. 96-349* Antitrust Procedural Improvements Act of 1980. Authorizes agents of the Department of Justice to use documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony in the custody of the Department. Subjects agents to criminal penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of specified confidential information.

*Pub. L. No. 96-355* Rural Development Policy Act of 1980. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and coordinate comprehensive strategy for federal programs in rural areas. The resources of federal, state, and local entities are to be directed in the most effective way.

Eliminates certain reporting requirements under the Agricultural Act of 1970.

*Pub. L. No. 96-362* National Aquaculture Act of 1980. Establishes a National Aquaculture Development Plan that directs research, establishes an information service on aquaculture, and collects and protects confidential information on public and private aquaculture activities.

*Pub. L. No. 96-364* Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980. Makes the pension plan sponsor responsible for identifying a withdrawing employer and determining the amount of withdrawal liability, but gives any such employer the opportunity to identify inaccuracies and furnish additional information.

*Pub. L. No. 96-374* Education Amendments of 1980. Requires states to use portions of federal education allotments for comprehensive statewide planning, information services, and continuing education.

Extends through fiscal year 1985 the authorizations of appropriations for college library resources, library training, and research, and for strengthening research library resources.

Directs the Secretary of Education to make resource development grants to institutions of higher learning and to other public and private nonprofit library institutions whose primary function is to provide library and information services to institutions of higher education, including the establishment and maintenance of networks for sharing library resources with other higher education institutions.

Authorizes grants to those institutions and organizations that perform research or train persons in librarianship, for library improvement, for research in information technology, and for disseminating project information.

Establishes a new program to assess the feasibility and advisability of a National Periodicals Center.

Declares that the Secretary of Education may disclose financial



information about holders of student loans to credit bureau organizations, while providing that such information disclosure shall not constitute any system of records under the 1974 Privacy Act, and shall not make the Department of Education a contractor of any credit bureau.

Requires institutions participating in Title IV programs to disseminate institutional and financial assistance information for prospective and enrolled students.

*Pub. L. No. 96-385* Veterans' Disability Compensation and Housing Benefits Amendments of 1980. Provides for the confidentiality of all records and documents that are part of any Veterans' Administration medical quality assurance program. Stipulates that disclosure of such material may be made only under specified circumstance.

*Pub. L. No. 96-386* Magnetic Fusion Energy Engineering Act of 1980. Directs the Secretary of Energy to ensure that research on the properties of material likely to be required for the construction of fusion engineering devices is adequate to provide timely information for the design of such devices.

Directs the Secretary to prepare a comprehensive program management plan for the conduct of research, development, and demonstration activities under this Act.

Directs the Secretary to develop a plan for the creation of a national magnetic fusion engineering center to accelerate fusion technology development.

Directs the Secretary to assure the dissemination of information concerning magnetic fusion program.

*Pub. L. No. 96-398* Mental Health Systems Act. Requires a community mental health center to have a medical records program.

Requires that an authorized advocate of a person admitted to a mental health facility have reasonable access to such person, the treatment area, and the records and information to which persons have access under this Act.

Amends Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to require states to have mechanical Medicaid management systems operational within specified time limits.

*Pub. L. No. 96-399* Housing and Community Development Act of 1980. Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to transmit to Congress a report that contains data collected since previous reporting.

Requires the Secretary to develop a procedure for collecting and regularly reporting data on the mean and median sales price for newly manufactured homes.

Directs the Secretary to conduct a study to determine, and to re-

port to Congress on, the feasibility of collecting data pertaining to all home mortgage delinquencies on an appropriate regional basis.

*Pub. L. No. 96-433* Amendments to the Securities Investor Protection Act. Authorizes the Securities Exchange Commission upon approval of a district court to obtain copies of information contained in financial records of a customer from a financial institution without prior notice to the customer.

Directs the Commission to compile an annual tabulation of the occasions on which the Commission obtains access to financial records of a customer as authorized under this Act and to include such tabulation in its annual report to Congress.

Authorizes the Commission to transfer financial records to any government authority in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, but permits the customer notice to be delayed upon an appropriate showing under this Act.

Authorizes the Commission to obtain financial records from a financial institution or to transfer such records in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act.

*Pub. L. No. 96-440* Privacy Protection Act of 1980. Permits government employees to search for and seize work product materials possessed by a person reasonably believed to have a purpose to disseminate to the public a form of communication relating to the national defense, classified information, or restricted data, or a form of communication that must be seized to prevent the death of, or serious bodily injury to, a human being (relates to the press and the First Amendment).

*Pub. L. No. 96-448* Staggers Rail Act of 1980. Directs the Interstate Commerce Commission to include specified information concerning surcharges in its annual report to Congress.

Directs the rate bureau involved to keep transcripts or recordings of all meetings and requires that records of votes be made. Directs that such records and transcripts of recordings be submitted to the Commission and made available to other federal agencies as needed.

Provides funds for computerized car management systems.

*Pub. L. No. 96-456* Classified Information Procedures Act. Sets forth pretrial, trial, and appellate procedures for criminal cases involving classified information. Gives the court and government wide powers to delete or withhold material that involves national security.

Directs the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Director of the CIA, and the Secretary of Defense to prescribe security measures for protection of classified information submitted to federal courts.

*Pub. L. No. 96-458* Judicial Councils Reform and Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980. Provides that all records of investigatory proceedings held under the Act shall be confidential except for material released for an impeachment investigation or when authorized by the judge who is the subject of a complaint.

Requires the Judicial Conference to make a comprehensive survey of the condition of business in the federal courts and prepare plans for assignment of judges where necessary.

*Pub. L. No. 96-461* National Bureau of Standards Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1981 and 1982. Authorizes additional appropriations for fiscal years 1981 and 1982 to carry out the activities performed by the National Technical Information Service and for adjustments in salary and employee benefits.

Increases the amount of funding supporting foreign nationals working for the NBS in the exchange of scientific or technical information.

*Pub. L. No. 96-466* Veterans' Rehabilitation and Education Amendments of 1980. Directs the Administrator of the Veterans' Administration to disclose certain credit information concerning such persons when necessary. Authorizes the Administrator to make available any reports submitted to or prepared by the VA in connection with home purchases or in connection with amounts of money paid to VA beneficiaries.

Authorizes the Administrator to publish, with approval, information pertaining to a VA claim if publication is in the public interest. Authorizes the disclosure of identifying information about an individual for VA evaluations or to consumer credit reporting agencies.

*Pub. L. No. 96-470* Congressional Reports Elimination Act of 1980. Repeals specified provisions of federal law that require various federal agencies to submit reports to Congress, the President, and the public.

*Pub. L. No. 96-479* National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980. Provides for improved collection, analysis, and dissemination of scientific, technical, and economic materials information from governmental and nongovernmental sources.

Establishes early warning systems for materials supply problems.

Implements programs to improve the availability and analysis of mineral data in federal land use decision making.

Directs the Secretary of the Interior to collect and evaluate in-

formation concerning mineral occurrences, production, and use from industry, academia, and from federal and state agencies.

*Pub. L. No. 96-480* Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. Establishes within the Department of Commerce a Center for the Utilization of Federal Technology to serve as a clearinghouse for federally owned or originated technical information with potential application to state or local governments or to private industry.

*Pub. L. No. 96-481* Small Business Export Expansion Act of 1980. Establishes within the Small Business Administration (SBA) an Office of International Trade to promote sales opportunities for small business goods and services abroad. Requires such office to provide small businesses with access to current and complete export information.

Establishes an export promotion center in each of two district offices of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce that are located in metropolitan areas where district offices of the SBA and the Internal Revenue Service exist. Requires each center to serve as a one-stop information center on federal government export assistance, financing programs available to small business, and related matters.

Directs the Secretary of Commerce, through the International Trade Administration, to maintain a clearinghouse for the collection, dissemination, and exchange of information between such programs.

*Pub. L. No. 96-482* Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendments of 1980. Suspends regulations on disposal of certain wastes provided that existing state or federal programs have mechanisms for obtaining certain information on disposal sites that are to be closed, including provisions for identification and for physical and chemical analysis.

Authorizes the EPA to enter any establishment to inspect, take samples, and conduct monitoring and testing, and to have access to and copy records relating to such wastes. Prescribes criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosure of any confidential information obtained.

Authorizes EPA contractors, as well as officers and employees, to obtain samples, perform inspection, and examine records at hazardous waste facilities.

Imposes penalties for disclosure of information entitled to confidential treatment under the inspection of records provisions of this Act.

Provides criminal penalties for knowingly destroying, altering, or concealing specified records required to be maintained in connection with the handling of such wastes.

Directs each state to undertake a continuing program to compile, publish, and submit an inventory of hazardous waste storage and disposal sites, including information concerning the current status of the sites.

Directs the Administrator of the program to conduct an inventory program in any state that fails to provide adequately such information.

*Pub. L. No. 96-509* Juvenile Justice Amendments of 1980. Permits grants for a national communications system to assist runaway and homeless youth in communications with their families and service providers.

*Pub. L. No. 96-511* Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Establishes within the Office of Management and Budget the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to direct and oversee information resource management, and a Federal Information Locator System to serve as an authoritative register of all government information requests.

Requires the Director of the OMB to develop and implement federal information policies and standards concerning reduction of paperwork, records management activities, privacy of records, and the review of information collection requests.

Establishes areas of management for the Director, including general information policy, information collection, statistical policy, records management, privacy of information, and automatic data processing and telecommunications functions.

Requires the Director to establish and implement government-wide audits of all major information systems, to take steps toward eliminating duplication of the collection of information, to establish a federal information locator system, to improve productivity in information processing, and to develop and enforce information processing standards.

*Pub. L. No. 96-515* National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a National Register of Historic Places composed of districts, sites, buildings, structures, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Requires each federal agency to assure that appropriate records are made of historic properties likely to be affected by agency action, and that such records are then deposited with the Library of Congress.

*Pub. L. No. 96-517* Patent and Trademark Laws. Authorizes federal agencies to withhold information about inventions from public disclosure.

Directs the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to report to Congress within two years on a plan to identify and develop computerized data and retrieval systems to be applied to all aspects of the operation of the Patent and Trademark Office.

*Pub. L. No. 96-538* Health Programs Extension Act of 1980. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with the Associate Director for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases, to establish the Diabetes Data Group and the Diabetes Information Clearinghouse.

Directs the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, and Digestive Diseases, to establish an information and education center for digestive diseases.

*Pub. L. No. 96-567* Nuclear Safety Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1980. Sets forth as minimum goals of the program the conduct of studies and analyses to establish a data base and the development of a methodology suitable to permit a comparison of significant electrical energy systems.

Directs the Secretary to fully disseminate safety-related information resulting from any project or other activity conducted under this Act.

*Pub. L. No. 96-598* Internal Revenue Code of 1954—Excise Tax Refunds for Certain Uses. Permits state taxing authorities that receive federal tax return information to disclose such information to a state auditing agency for the purpose of auditing tax authorities.

*Pub. L. No. 96-603* Simplification of Private Foundation Return—Reporting Requirements. Permits the Internal Revenue Service to disclose to the Secretary of Education, upon written request, the mailing address of any taxpayer who has defaulted on a student loan received under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program or the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, for the purpose of assisting the Secretary in collecting the loans. Authorizes criminal penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of any information received under the provisions of this Act.

*Pub. L. No. 96-605* Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1980. Qualifies for investment tax credit treatment property used by the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium, the International Maritime Satellite Organization, and any successor organization.

