117TH 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 Promoting Programming” or the “APP Act”.  
5  SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.  
6  (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
(1) 84 percent of leading app makers are outside Silicon Valley, and 88 percent are small businesses.

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

(3) The Congressional App Challenge is an officially sanctioned competition to promote computer science education and demonstrate the value of coding to the next generation.

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

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

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

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

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

(2) the Federal Government has an obligation to provide information and services through a means
that meets the technology demands of our changing
society; and

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

SEC. 3. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE FOR APPS.

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

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

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

(3) A page that prominently displays apps that
have been recently updated or that receive a high
user review average under paragraph (2).
(4) A page that features Government projects that provide application developers with tools to improve private apps, such as data.gov and developer.epa.gov.

(5) Resources for education and training related to the creation of apps.

(6) A page that features outstanding, educational, computer science programs, determined by the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the National Science Foundation, and resources to replicate such programs.

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

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