

January, 2027

Mr. Dishon introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To mandate that all federal legislation be written in clear, concise, and accessible language, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "**Plain Language in Governance Act of 2027**".

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING STANDARDS.

(a) **Plain English Requirement.**—All bills, joint resolutions, and amendments introduced in the United States Congress shall be written in clear, standard English using commonly understood words and sentence structures. Such legislation shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid—

1. Archaic or obsolete legal terminology.
2. Excessive cross-referencing that obscures meaning.
3. Unnecessarily convoluted or technical sentence construction.

(b) **Statement of Legislative Intent.**—Every bill or joint resolution introduced in Congress shall begin with a Statement of Legislative Intent, written in plain English and not excessive in length, that clearly describes—

1. The specific problem the legislation seeks to address.
2. The specific mechanism by which the legislation proposes to address that problem.
3. The intended outcome for the American public.

SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE REVIEW.

(a) **Review by Congressional Research Service.**—Prior to floor consideration, the Congressional Research Service shall review each bill and joint resolution for compliance with the drafting standards set forth in Section 2 and shall issue a plain-language compliance assessment.

(b) **Public Availability.**—The compliance assessment shall be made publicly available alongside the legislative text.

SECTION 4. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.

(a) **Introduction Not Prohibited.**—Failure to comply with the requirements of this Act shall not prohibit the introduction of legislation.

(b) **Point of Order.**—Any Member of Congress may raise a point of order against the consideration of legislation that substantially fails to comply with the requirements of Section 2. If the point of order is sustained, the legislation shall be returned to committee for revision prior to further consideration.

SECTION 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

1. To alter the substantive legal effect of any existing legislation.
2. To require simplification that would materially change legal meaning.
3. To restrict Congress from legislating on complex or technical matters, provided such legislation is explained in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 6. PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION AND NON-RETROACTIVITY.

This Act applies solely to legislation introduced after its enactment and is intended to direct future legislative drafting practices toward clarity, transparency, and public understanding.