

Downsize

Make Congress pass the “Read the Bills Act” and the “One Subject at a Time Act”

- You must bear the burden of every word of every law Congress passes.
- This burden can include increased taxes, debt, the need to consult lawyers, the cost to comply, and possible fines or imprisonment.
- Ignorance of the law is no excuse for **you**, but Members of Congress are quite ignorant of the laws they pass. *Rarely, if ever, do they read the laws they impose on you.*

And it gets worse. Many laws get passed even though they lack majority support. This happens because Congressional leaders bundle unpopular bills with popular legislation that's completely unrelated.

DownsizeDC.org has crafted two bills to stop these practices . . .

- The "One Subject at a Time Act" – **OSTA** for short – would prevent Congressional leaders from combining unrelated legislation. Every proposed law would have to receive its own up or down vote, **as an individual bill!**
- The "Read the Bills Act" – **RTBA** for short – would force half of Congress to sit through a full reading of every word of every bill *before* they can vote on it.

RTBA also requires every member of Congress who intends to vote yes on a bill to sign an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, swearing that he or she has either read, or heard read every word of that bill. No longer will they be able to make the excuse, “I didn’t know *THAT* was in the bill.”

RTBA also requires that the final version of each bill be posted on the Internet for seven days *before* a vote. This would give the media, watchdog groups, and **YOU** the chance to read the bill too.

RTBA would force Congress to draft shorter, clearer legislation, so they could endure reading it. The time required for the oral reading would also force Congress to focus, and prioritize. *RTBA combined with OSTA would result in the passage of fewer but better laws.*

Finally, RTBA and OSTA aren’t mere rules that Congress can follow or disregard at their whimsy. Both bills contain teeth – real enforcement mechanisms – that protect those who find themselves in court under a law passed “in an un-read and clustered way.”

Do you want Congress to sponsor and pass these bills? Then please join DownsizeDC.org.

Come to the website, www.DownsizeDC.org.

Once there, you can register and send a message to your representatives in Congress telling them to sponsor these bills, or you can sign-up for a subscription to the free, highly-informative newsletter, the Downsizer-Dispatch, via email or Twitter (DDCDispatch).