

# Perspectives on Open Government Data Policy

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**Wolfram Data Summit**  
**September 9, 2010**

# Hypothetical Right to Information

- (1) Every citizen has the right of access to information held by the State.
- (2) Every person has the right to the correction or deletion of untrue or misleading information that affects the person.

# New Kenyan Constitution

- (1) Every citizen has the right of access to—
  - (a) information held by the State; and
  - (b) information held by another person and required for the exercise or protection of any right or fundamental freedom.
- (2) Every person has the right to the correction or deletion of untrue or misleading information that affects the person.

(for more: <http://j.mp/98AtiE>)

# Sweden

- Article 1 of Chapter 2, adopted 1949:

“Every Swedish citizen shall be entitled to have free access to official documents, in order to encourage the free exchange of opinion and the availability of comprehensive information.”
- Based on provisions that date to Sweden’s Constitution of 1766.
- (<http://right2info.org/constitutional-protections-of-the-right-to#sweden>)

# Philippines

- Article III (Bill of Rights), Sec. 7 of the 1987 Constitution:
  - “The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official **records**, and to **documents** and **papers** pertaining to official **acts**, **transactions**, or **decisions**, as well as to government **research data** used as **basis for policy** development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.”

# Right2Info.org (revised by me)

## **Americas**

Columbia

Costa Rica

Ecuador

Mexico

Nicaragua (personal info)

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Venezuela (maybe)

## **Europe**

Albania

Belgium

Bulgaria

Estonia

Finland

Georgia

Lithuania (personal info)

Montenegro

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Russia (personal info)

Serbia

Slovakia

Slovenia

Sweden

## **Africa**

Malawi

South Africa

Uganda

## **Asia, Pacific**

Kazakhstan (personal info)

Fiji

Nepal

New Zealand

Papau New Guinea

Philippines

Thailand

[Congress](#) > [Legislation](#)

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# H.R. 1: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

111<sup>st</sup> Congress  
2009-2010

Making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

## Overview

**Sponsor:** [Rep. David Obey \[D-WI\]](#) [show cosponsors \(9\)](#)

**Text:** [Summary](#) | [Full Text](#)

**Status:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	Jan 26, 2009
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referred to Committee	<a href="#">View Committee Assignments</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments (485 proposed)	<a href="#">View Amendments</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed House	Jan 28, 2009
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed Senate	Feb 10, 2009
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Differences Resolved	Feb 13, 2009
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed by President	(pending)

The bill may now proceed to a conference committee of senators and representatives to work out differences in the versions of the bill each chamber approved. The bill then goes to the President before becoming law. [Last Updated: Feb 15, 2009 12:00PM]

**Last Action:** Feb 13, 2009: Message on Senate action sent to the House.

**Other Titles:**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009
- Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act
- Cap Executive Officer Pay Act of 2009

## Navigation

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- [Summary \(CRS\)](#)
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- [Committee Assignments](#)
- [Amendments](#)
- [Floor Speeches](#)
- [Related Legislation](#)

## Track H.R. 1



The feed for this bill includes all major activity on this bill, activity on amendments, references in the Congressional Record, and relevant upcoming committee meetings.

[Preview Feed](#)

Personalize GovTrack by selecting trackers. Tracking H.R. 1 adds relevant events as they happen to your personal [Tracked Events](#) page and [email updates](#).



Congress will next meet on Feb 23, 2009.

Feb 9, 2009: Track the stimulus bill. See [what the Senate changed](#) in their latest draft.

[Congress](#) > [Members of Congress](#) > [New York](#)

# New York's 14th Congressional District & Map



The two senators from New York are:



[Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten \[D\]](#)



[Sen. Schumer, Charles \[D\]](#)

The representative for New York's 14th congressional district is:



[Rep. Maloney, Carolyn \[D\]](#)  
[District 14 Map](#)

View [all of the districts](#) in this state.

## Track These Members of Congress

Now that you've found your senators and representatives, tell GovTrack you want to *Track* them so that they show up in your customized tracked events page.

[Add Trackers For My Reps!](#)

Go to another state:

Zoom in to see congressional district bubbles, or select a state:





# “Congress” Android App

- By Eric Mill et al at Sunlight Foundation

Senate Roll No. 48

On Passage of the Bill (H.R. 4213 As Amended)

Mar 10, 2010

Related to bill  
H.R. 4213

Results 1/2 majority required

Bill Passed

Yeas	Nays	Present	No Vote
62	36	0	2

Akaka, Daniel  
(D) Junior Senator from Hawaii  
Yea

Baucus, Max  
(D) Senior Senator from Montana  
Yea

“(t)(1)(A) For purposes of subsection (a)(3)(F), the payments for certified EHR technology (and support services including maintenance that is for, or is necessary for the operation of, such technology) by Medicaid providers described in this paragraph are payments made by the State in accordance with this subsection of the applicable percent ~~(as specified in subparagraph (B))~~ of the net allowable costs of Medicaid providers (as defined in paragraph (2)) for such technology (and support services).

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the ~~applicable percent~~ term ‘applicable percent’ means--

“(i) in the case of a Medicaid provider described in paragraph (2)(A), 85 percent;

“(ii) in the case of a Medicaid provider described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (2)(B), 100 percent; and

~~“(ii) in the case of a Medicaid provider described in paragraph (2)(B), 100~~ (i) in the case of a Medicaid provider described in clause (iii) of paragraph (2)(B), a percent specified by the Secretary, but not less than 85 percent.

“(2) In this subsection and subsection (a)(3)(F), the term ‘Medicaid provider’ means--

“(A) an eligible professional (as defined in paragraph (3)(B)) who is not hospital-based and has at least 30 percent of the professional’s patient volume (as estimated in accordance with standards established by the Secretary) attributable to individuals who are receiving medical assistance under this title; and

“(B)(i) a children’s hospital, (ii) an acute-care hospital that is not described in clause (i) and that has at least 10 percent of the hospital’s patient volume (as estimated in accordance with standards established by the Secretary) attributable to individuals who are receiving medical assistance under this title, or (iii) a Federally-qualified health center or rural health clinic that has at least 30 percent of the center’s or clinic’s patient volume (as estimated in accordance with standards established by the Secretary) attributable to individuals who are receiving medical assistance under this title.

An eligible professional shall not qualify as a Medicaid provider under this subsection unless the eligible professional has waived, in a manner specified by the Secretary, any right to payment under section 1848(o) with respect to the adoption or support of certified EHR technology by the eligible professional. In applying clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B), the standards established by the Secretary for patient volume shall include individuals enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan (under section 1903(m) or section 1932).

“(3) In this subsection and subsection (a)(3)(F):

“(A) The term ‘certified EHR technology’ means a qualified electronic health record (as defined in

# SemanticReports.com

- By Martynas Jusevicius
- The ManyEyes for the semantic web.
  - Arbitrary visualizations based on data retrieved from a SPARQL endpoint.

# Campaign Contributions to U.S. Rep. Steve Israel by Zip Code, 2008



# The Ask

- What is “open government data”?
- i.e., what are the qualifications for government data being “open”

# Principles

- **Complete** (8 Principles of Open Government Data)
- **Primary**
- **Timely**
- **Accessible**
- **Machine-Processable**
- **Non-discriminatory**
- **Non-proprietary**
- **License-Free**



# Principles

- **Online & Free (as in beer) & Permanent**  
(Sunlight Foundation)
- **Promotes Analysis** (US ACM Recommendation)
- **Safe File Formats**
- **Has Provenance**
- **Public Input** (Assoc Govt Accountants)
- **Public Review** (Me?)
- **Inter-agency Coordination**

# Principles

- **Permanent Web Addresses** (Citability.org / LTV)
- **Web Searchable** (Google)
- **Uses Globally Unique Identifiers** (?)
- **Linked Open Data** (Me / TBL / W3C)
  - (Semantic Web)

<http://razor.occams.info/pubdocs/opendataciviccapital.html>

# House of Representatives

The use of duplications of broadcast coverage of the Committee on Transportation is governed by the rules of the House.

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# Reminiscent of...

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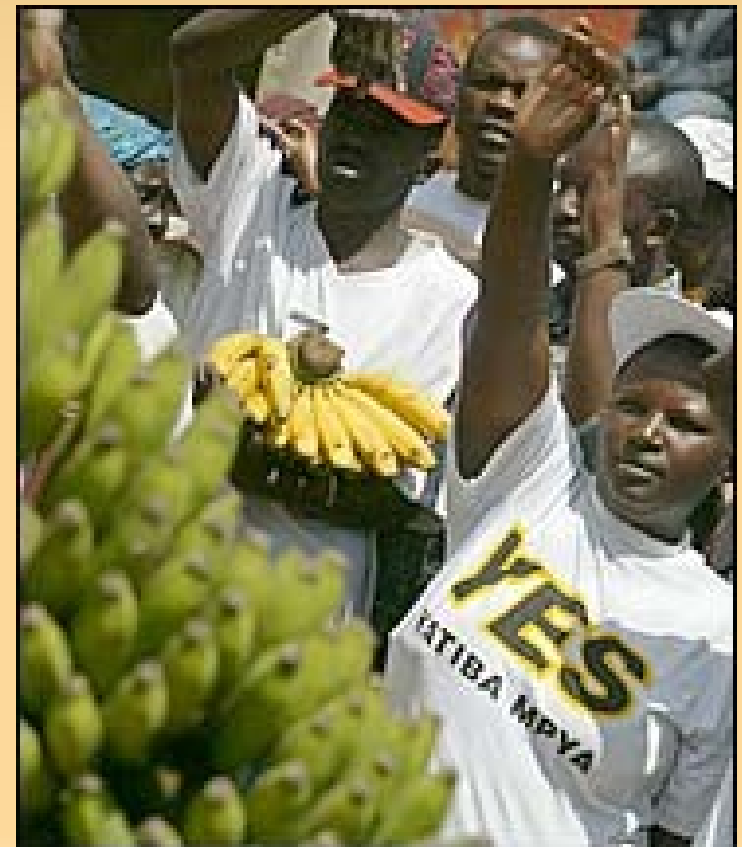
# Principles ==> Law

- <http://www.opengovdata.org>
  - Edmonton, Canada: Open Data Report
  - New York City: Intro. 991-2009, 029-2010
  - New York State: Bill A10335
    - Actually includes text of “8 Principles”.
  - USA: H.R.4858 - Public Online Information Act of 2010
  - Brazil: Civil Framework for the Brazilian Internet (2010)
- <http://wiki.civiccommons.com/>



# Distance from Data to the Public

- Kenyan constitutional changes faced the problem of informing a substantially illiterate electorate.





# Distance from Data to the Public

Michael Gurstein (9/2/2010):

- “A very interesting and well-documented example of this empowering of the empowered can be found in the work of Solly Benjamin and his colleagues looking at the impact of the digitization of land records in Bangalore.
- “Their findings were that newly available access to land ownership and title information in Bangalore was primarily being put to use by middle and upper income people and by corporations to gain ownership of land from the marginalized and the poor.”

# Is Transparency an “End”?



**I'll post the slides at**

**<http://razor.occams.info>**

**Also check out my new project:**

**[www.popvox.com](http://www.popvox.com)**