To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARPER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, 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 “Periodically Listing Updates to Management Act of 2022” or the “PLUM Act of 2022”.
SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC WEBSITE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY AND SUPPORTING POSITIONS.

(a) Establishment.—

(1) In general.—Subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3330f. Government policy and supporting position data

"(a) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) Agency.—The term ‘agency’ means—

"(A) any Executive agency, the United States Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission;

"(B) the Architect of the Capitol, the Government Accountability Office, the Government Publishing Office, and the Library of Congress; and

"(C) the Executive Office of the President and any component within that Office (including any successor component), including—

"(i) the Council of Economic Advisors;

"(ii) the Council on Environmental Quality;

"(iii) the National Security Council;

"(iv) the Office of the Vice President;
“(v) the Office of Policy Development;
“(vi) the Office of Administration;
“(vii) the Office of Management and Budget;
“(viii) the Office of the United States Trade Representative;
“(ix) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
“(x) the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and
“(xi) the White House Office, including the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.

“(2) APPOINTEE.—The term ‘appointee’—
“(A) means an individual serving in a policy and supporting position; and
“(B) includes an individual serving in such a position temporarily in an acting capacity in accordance with—
“(i) sections 3345 through 3349d (commonly referred to as the ‘Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998’);
“(ii) any other statutory provision described in section 3347(a)(1); or
“(iii) a Presidential appointment described in section 3347(a)(2).

“(3) COVERED WEBSITE.—The term ‘covered website’ means the website established and maintained by the Director under subsection (b).

“(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

“(5) POLICY AND SUPPORTING POSITION.—The term ‘policy and supporting position’ means—

“(A) a position that requires appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

“(B) a position that requires or permits appointment by the President or Vice President, without the advice and consent of the Senate;

“(C) a position occupied by a limited term appointee, limited emergency appointee, or non-career appointee in the Senior Executive Service, as defined under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 3132(a);

“(D) a position of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;
“(E) a position in the Senior Foreign Service;

“(F) any career position at an agency that, but for this section and section 2(b)(3) of the PLUM Act of 2022, would be included in the publication entitled ‘United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions’, commonly referred to as the ‘Plum Book’; and

“(G) any other position classified at or above level GS–14 of the General Schedule (or equivalent) that is excepted from the competitive service by law because of the confidential or policy-determining nature of the position duties.

“(b) Establishment of Website.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PLUM Act of 2022, the Director shall establish, and thereafter the Director shall maintain, a public website containing the following information for the President in office on the date of establishment and for each subsequent President:

“(1) Each policy and supporting position in the Federal Government, including any such position that is vacant.

“(2) The name of each individual who—

“(A) is serving in a position described in paragraph (1); or
“(B) previously served in a position described in such paragraph under the applicable President.
“(3) Information on—
“(A) any Government-wide or agency-wide limitation on the total number of positions in the Senior Executive Service under section 3133 or 3132 or the total number of positions under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations; and
“(B) the total number of individuals occupying such positions.
“(c) CONTENTS.—With respect to any policy and supporting position listed on the covered website, the Director shall include—
“(1) the agency, and agency component, (including the agency and bureau code used by the Office of Management and Budget) in which the position is located;
“(2) the name of the position;
“(3) the name of the individual occupying the position (if any);
“(4) the geographic location of the position, including the city, State or province, and country;
“(5) the pay system under which the position is paid;
“(6) the level, grade, or rate of pay;
“(7) the term or duration of the appointment (if any);
“(8) the expiration date, in the case of a time-limited appointment;
“(9) a unique identifier for each appointee to enable tracking the appointee across positions;
“(10) whether the position is vacant; and
“(11) for any position that is vacant—
“(A) for a position for which appointment is required to be made by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the name of the acting official; and
“(B) for other positions, the name of the official performing the duties of the vacant position.
“(d) CURRENT DATA.—For each agency, the Director shall indicate in the information on the covered website the date that the agency last updated the data.
“(e) FORMAT.—The Director shall make the data on the covered website available to the public at no cost over the internet in a searchable, sortable, downloadable, and machine-readable format so that the data qualifies as an
open Government data asset, as defined in section 3502 of title 44.

“(f) Authority of Director.—

“(1) Information required.—Each agency shall provide to the Director any information that the Director determines necessary to establish and maintain the covered website, including the information uploaded under paragraph (4).

“(2) Requirements for agencies.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PLUM Act of 2022, the Director shall issue instructions to agencies with specific requirements for the provision or uploading of information required under paragraph (1), including—

“(A) specific data standards that an agency shall follow to ensure that the information is complete, accurate, and reliable;

“(B) data quality assurance methods; and

“(C) the timeframe during which an agency shall provide or upload the information, including the timeframe described under paragraph (4).

“(3) Public accountability.—The Director shall identify on the covered website any agency that has failed to provide—
“(A) the information required by the Director;

“(B) complete, accurate, and reliable information; or

“(C) the information during the timeframe specified by the Director.

“(4) Monthly updates.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the covered website is established, and not less than once during each 30-day period thereafter, the head of each agency shall upload to the covered website updated information (if any) on—

“(i) the policy and supporting positions in the agency;

“(ii) the appointees occupying such positions in the agency; and

“(iii) the former appointees who served in such positions in the agency under the President then in office.

“(B) Supplement not supplant.—Information provided under subparagraph (A) shall supplement, not supplant, previously provided information under that subparagraph.
“(5) OPM Help Desk.—The Director shall establish a central help desk, to be operated by not more than 1 full-time employee, to assist any agency with implementing this section.

“(6) Coordination.—The Director may designate 1 or more agencies to participate in the development, establishment, operation, and support of the covered website. With respect to any such designation, the Director may specify the scope of the responsibilities of the agency so designated.

“(7) Data Standards and Timing.—The Director shall make available on the covered website information regarding data collection standards, quality assurance methods, and time frames for reporting data to the Director.

“(8) Regulations.—The Director may prescribe regulations necessary for the administration of this section.

“(g) Responsibility of Agencies.—

“(1) Provision of Information.—Each agency shall comply with the instructions and guidance issued by the Director to carry out this section, and, upon request of the Director, shall provide appropriate assistance to the Director to ensure the successful operation of the covered website in the man-
ner and within the timeframe specified by the Director under subsection (f)(2).

“(2) Ensuring completeness, accuracy, and reliability.—With respect to any submission of information described in paragraph (1), the head of an agency shall include—

“(A) an explanation of how the agency ensured the information is complete, accurate, and reliable; and

“(B) a certification that the information is complete, accurate, and reliable.

“(h) Information Verification.—

“(1) Semiannual confirmation.—

“(A) In general.—Not less frequently than semiannually, the Director, in coordination with the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, shall confirm that the information on the covered website is complete, accurate, reliable, and up-to-date.

“(B) Certification.—On the date on which the Director makes a confirmation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall publish on the covered website a certification that the confirmation has been made.
“(2) Authority of Director.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director may—

“(A) request additional information from an agency; and

“(B) use any additional information provided to the Director or the White House Office of Presidential Personnel for the purposes of verification.

“(3) Public Comment.—The Director shall establish a process under which members of the public may provide feedback regarding the accuracy of the information on the covered website.

“(i) Data Archiving.—

“(1) In General.—As soon as practicable after a transitional inauguration day (as defined in section 3349a), the Director, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States, shall archive the data that was compiled on the covered website for the preceding presidential administration.

“(2) Public Availability.—The Director shall make the data described in paragraph (1) publicly available over the internet—

“(A) on, or through a link on, the covered website;

“(B) at no cost; and
“(C) in a searchable, sortable, downloadable, and machine-readable format.

“(j) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the covered website is established, and every year thereafter, the Director, in coordination with the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, shall publish a report on the covered website that—

“(A) contains summary-level information on the demographics of each appointee; and

“(B) provide the information in a structured data format that—

“(i) is searchable, sortable, and downloadable;

“(ii) makes use of common identifiers wherever possible; and

“(iii) contains current and historical data regarding the information.

“(2) CONTENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report published under paragraph (1) shall—

“(i) include self-identified data with respect to each type of appointee on race, ethnicity, Tribal affiliation, gender, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status,
and whether the appointee is over the age of 40; and

“(ii) allow for users of the covered website to view the type of appointee by agency or component, along with the data described in clause (i), alone and in combination, to the greatest level detail possible without allowing the identification of individual appointees.

“(B) OPTION TO NOT SPECIFY.—When each category of data described in subparagraph (A)(i) is collected, each appointee shall be allowed an option to not specify with respect to any such category.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—The Director shall consult with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives regarding reports published under this subsection and the information in the reports to determine whether the intent of this section is being fulfilled and if additional information or other changes are needed for the reports.
“(3) EXCLUSION OF CAREER POSITIONS.—For purposes of applying the term ‘appointee’ in this subsection, that term does not include any individual appointed to a position described in subsection (a)(5)(F).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3330f. Government policy and supporting position data.”.

(b) OTHER MATTERS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “agency”, “covered website”, “Director”, and “policy and supporting position” have the meanings given those terms in section 3330f of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director establishes the covered website, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of, and issue a briefing or report on, the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, which shall include—

(A) the quality of data required to be collected and whether the data is complete, accurate, timely, and reliable;
(B) any challenges experienced by agencies in implementing this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(C) any suggestions or modifications to enhance compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including best practices for agencies to follow.

(3) SUNSET OF PLUM BOOK.—Beginning on January 1, 2024—

(A) the covered website shall serve as the public directory for policy and supporting positions in the Government; and

(B) the publication entitled “United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions”, commonly referred to as the “Plum Book”, shall no longer be issued or published.

(4) FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(B) OTHER FUNDING.—The Director shall carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Director.