

Officials deserve applause for transparency efforts

Kudos to U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Bowling Green, for co-sponsoring HR 554, which would require that all proposed legislation be posted online at least 72 hours before being subject to a vote by members of Congress.

And a similar nod to state Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green, for his attempt to get a comparable provision passed in the commonwealth for proposed budgetary legislation.

So what is the problem here?

What many citizens do not realize is that this is standard procedure for Congress. Our elected representatives seldom have sufficient time to make an informed assessment of the legislation they are voting on.

How the stimulus bill was handled is especially appalling, almost to the point of being surreal.

The 1,073-page document, which authorized our government to spend a trillion dollars, was posted at 10 p.m. the day before legislators were expected to vote on it. There is simply no way this bill could have been understood in any significant detail by most of those responsible for deciding its fate.

The American people in general, and our legislators in particular, deserve an opportunity to digest, dissect and decipher any potential laws that will affect how our government operates and especially how our tax dollars are spent.

Three questions: Why was the bill not passed by our state legislators?

Why is there so little interest in getting HR 554 passed at the national level? What rationale could possibly be driving the lack of movement on implementing what should be a no-brainer in both cases?

I applaud them in their quests to bring some much needed common sense and transparency to the legislative process. We need to voice our support for their efforts as loudly and as pervasively as possible.

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