

FINANCIAL DATA TRANSPARENCY ACT

The Financial Data Transparency Act (FDTA) is designed to modernize the collection and dissemination of financial data by federal financial regulators, making that information more accessible, more uniform, and ultimately more useful to investors and consumers. The Treasury Department and seven key regulators will jointly develop new standards, leveraging other data modernization efforts to streamline compliance and align data collections with government-wide policies for “open data assets.”

Consistent New Data Standards for More Transparent Data, Better Access

The FDTA requires that the new rules contain specific characteristics, building on existing industry and government best practices for data processing, and incorporating relevant federal data-handling policies and international standards:

The new standards will include the use of common, non-proprietary legal identifiers for financial products, instruments, and transactions. The identifiers would be required to be available under an open license, at no cost to the public, per existing federal law.

The new standards will ensure that covered data will be fully searchable and machine-readable for ease of use.

Data will also be made available in open license format to improve access for industry, academia, and the public, and to reduce costs by promoting competition for the creation for new data collection and analytical technologies and techniques.

The bill also requires the agencies to seek interoperability of financial data across the regulatory agencies, to promote consistency, ease of use, and streamlined compliance.

Aligning with Government-Wide “Open Data” Policy

The FDTA requires each agency to publish the data it collects, as appropriate, as “open data.” reiterating the requirement for disclosable public data assets to be made available as “open Government data assets,” as defined under the OPEN Government Data Act. This will ensure that data covered by the bill is published consistent with existing government-wide data policy, and made available by agencies for bulk download in a human-readable format.

No New Reporting or Disclosure Requirements

The FDTA does not authorize any new regulatory information collection, does not authorize the publication of any information that is not already required to be published under existing law, and does not affect existing policies governing classified or otherwise protected information.

Implementation

The regulators covered by the bill will have two years from the date of enactment to finalize the required data standards through a joint rulemaking. The agencies then have two years to implement the data standards into their respective data reporting regimes.