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77TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
# H. R. 6632

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 1942

Mr. SUMNERS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on the Judiciary

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# A BILL

To penalize the divulging of the contents of confidential Government documents.

1   *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3   That whoever, without authority, shall willfully and know-

4   ingly furnish, communicate, divulge, or publish to any person,

5   in whole or in part, copies or the contents, substance, purport,

6   effect, or meaning of any file, instrument, letter, memoran-

7   dum, book, pamphlet, paper, document, manuscript, map,

8   picture, plan, record, or other writing in the custody of the

9   United States, or of any agency, officer, or employee thereof,

10   declared to be secret or confidential by statute, or declared

11   to be secret or confidential by any rule or regulation of any

1  department or agency of the United States of which he has

2  knowledge or which has been published in the Code of

3  Federal Regulations or in the Federal Register, shall be fined

4  not more than $5,000 or imprisoned for not more than two

5  years, or both. The provisions of this section are in addition

6  to, and do not supersede, other laws.

7  SEC. 2. The head of any executive department, inde-

8  pendent establishment, or other agency may authorize the

9  disclosure of information not declared to be secret or confi-

10  dential by statute in the custody of his department, establish-

11  ment, or agency to particular persons or classes of persons

12  or to the public generally. The provisions of section 1 of

13  this Act shall not apply to disclosures so authorized.

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By Mr. SUMNERS of Texas

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