

REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

Senator Angus King and Senator Roy Blunt

The *Regulatory Improvement Act* creates a Regulatory Improvement Commission to review outdated regulations with the goal of modifying, consolidating, or repealing regulations in order to reduce compliance costs, encourage growth and innovation, and improve competitiveness.

While regulatory self-review processes have been utilized for years with varying degrees of success, retrospective reviews often fall short in two ways: 1) internal pressures – from limited staff to extensive bureaucracy – limit the ability of individual agencies to effectively trim their regulations, and 2) the existing retrospective review processes tend to look at individual regulations in isolation, rather than the considering the cumulative impact of regulations both within and across agencies.

The bill extricates the regulatory reform debate from traditional political and ideological frameworks by employing a balanced approach to evaluating existing regulations – one that involves identifying regulations that are not essential to protecting broad priorities, like the environment, public health, and safety, but instead are outdated, duplicative, or inefficient. The goal of the Commission is not to circumvent congressional, executive, or agency authority, but instead to complement existing processes and to create a mechanism that acts expeditiously and incorporates wide stakeholder input.

What does this bill do?

The *Regulatory Improvement Act* creates a Regulatory Improvement Commission that will review outdated regulations submitted by the public and relevant stakeholders. The Commission will operate for a designated period of time and require congressional reauthorization each time a retrospective regulatory review is desired.

How will the Commission operate?

Members of the bipartisan Commission will be appointed by congressional leadership and the President. The Commission will be tasked with first identifying a single sector or area of regulations for consideration. Upon an extensive review process – involving broad input from the general public and stakeholders – the Commission will submit to Congress a report containing regulations in need of streamlining, consolidation, or repeal.

Will the public have the opportunity to participate?

Yes. The public and interested stakeholders will have several opportunities throughout the process to comment – including an initial public comment period directing the Commission's area of focus as well as during a period of feedback on a preliminary draft of the Commission's report to Congress.

How will Congress consider the Commission's report?

Both houses of Congress will consider the Commission's report under expedited legislative procedures, which allow relevant congressional committees to review the Commission's report but not amend the recommendations. Within 30 days, each committee will be discharged of its consideration of the Commission's report and the report (in legislative language) will be placed on the calendar of each house. The Commission's report will be subject to an up-or-down vote without amendment.