

REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

***Senator Angus King (I-ME), Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO),
Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)***

The **Regulatory Improvement Act** would create a Regulatory Improvement Commission to review outdated regulations with the goal of modifying, consolidating, or repealing regulations in order to reduce compliance costs, encourage growth and innovation, and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 used 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 considering the cumulative impact of regulations both within and across multiple agencies.

The Regulatory Improvement Act aims to address this problem by employing a bipartisan, balanced approach to examining existing regulations – one that involves identifying regulations that are not essential to protecting broad priorities, such as the environment, public health, and safety, but instead are simply outdated, duplicative, or inefficient.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The Regulatory Improvement Act creates a temporary, independent Regulatory Improvement Commission that will review outdated regulations submitted by the public and relevant stakeholders. The Regulatory Improvement Act also provides Congress with the opportunity to vote on modifying, consolidating, or repealing onerous and burdensome regulations. Under the bill, the Commission would operate for a designated period of time and then terminate after the date on which it submits its final report.

How will the Commission operate?

Members of the bipartisan Commission will be appointed by congressional leadership and the President. After an extensive review process – involving broad input from the general public, agency experts, and relevant stakeholders, as well as consultation with members of Congress – 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 multiple opportunities throughout the process to provide input – including an initial public comment period that will inform 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 will be placed on the calendar of each house. The Commission's report will be subject to an up-or-down vote without amendment.

This legislation has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Progressive Policy Institute.