

The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is considering various bills to reform how regulations are developed, analyzed, and reviewed. The [GW Regulatory Studies Center](#) tracks and classifies these bills based on information provided by the [Library of Congress](#). The legislation is selected if it concerns improvements to the quality of government regulation. Regulatory reform may be economic or to mitigate some sort of harm that stems from the activity being regulated. The [bills are classified](#) using reform elements the GW Regulatory Studies Center considers to be integral to reforming the regulatory processes, procedures, and subsequent outcomes.

### Reform Elements

- 1. Congressional Oversight:** Act modifies Congress's role in the regulatory process.
- 2. Procedural Changes:** Act changes procedures by which agencies develop regulations (or related actions).
- 3. Small Firm Impacts:** Act requires procedures to evaluate or reduce small business impacts.
- 4. Retrospective Review:** Act requires or modifies review of existing regulations.
- 5. Analytical Requirements:** Act modifies analytical requirements, including benefit-cost analysis, used to support regulations.
- 6. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA):** Act modifies OIRA's role in the regulatory process.
- 7. Scope:** Act that targets a particular agency and/or narrow group of rules.

[The bill information collected by the Center](#) includes: bill number and title, bill sponsor and number of cosponsors, the date it was introduced, its current status, a brief summary of the bills' purpose, and reform elements. The legislative tracking is updated regularly so that the public and other interested parties can stay up to date on regulatory reform initiatives being considered in Congress. Those interested in regulatory reform can view the bills' information and contact their congressman or congresswomen if they believe a certain reform should be passed or rejected, and henceforth advancing the democratic process.

Two Senate bills that were most recently introduced are the [Regulatory Improvements Act of 2013](#) and [Strengthening Congressional Oversight of Regulatory Actions for Efficiency](#). The [Regulatory Improvements Act of 2013](#), introduced on July 30<sup>th</sup> by Senator Angus King (I-ME) [creates a Regulatory Improvement Commission to review outdated regulations with the goal of modifying, consolidating, or repealing regulations in order to reduce compliance costs, encourage growth and innovation, and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](#). The [Strengthening Congressional Oversight of Regulatory Actions for Efficiency](#),



introduced on August 1<sup>st</sup> by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) creates a division within the [Congressional Budget Office](#) that would perform regulatory analysis. Both of these acts are considered to be classified with the reform elements 1 and 4, meaning it is an act that modifies Congress's role in the regulatory process, and requires or modifies review of existing regulations.

Currently, there are 23 regulatory reform bills being considered by Congress – 13 bills in the House and 10 in the Senate. Congress will go back in session September 9, and it will be exciting to see what new regulatory reform bills come out of Congress and which bills don't make the cut.

