

# Union Calendar No. 61

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 277

[Report No. 118–84, Part I]

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COMER, Mr. EMMER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CARL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BACON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. PALMER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BARR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BOST, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. BICE, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FALLON, Mr. STEIL, Mr. MANN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HERN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAST, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOODEN of

Texas, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. JAMES, Mr. ESTES, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HILL, Mr. EZELL, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. MILLS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. GUEST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JUNE 1, 2023

Additional sponsors: Mr. YAKYM, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SELF, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SANTOS, and Mr. ROSE

JUNE 1, 2023

Reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

JUNE 1, 2023

Committees on Rules and the Budget discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 11, 2023]

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Regulations from the*  
5 *Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2023” or the “REINS*  
6 *Act of 2023”.*

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

8 *The purpose of this Act is to increase accountability*  
9 *for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process. Sec-*  
10 *tion 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants*  
11 *all legislative powers to Congress. Over time, Congress has*  
12 *excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing*  
13 *to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability*  
14 *for the content of the laws it passes. By requiring a vote*  
15 *in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully*  
16 *drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory*  
17 *process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable*  
18 *to the American people for the laws imposed upon them.*

19 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.**

20 *Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended*  
21 *to read as follows:*

22 **“CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW**  
23 **OF AGENCY RULEMAKING**

*“Sec.*

*“801. Congressional review.*

*“802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.*

*“803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.*

*“804. Definitions.*

“805. *Judicial review.*

“806. *Exemption for monetary policy.*

“807. *Effective date of certain rules.*

1 **“§ 801. Congressional review**

2       “(a)(1)(A) *Before a rule may take effect, the Federal*  
3 *agency promulgating such rule shall publish in the Federal*  
4 *Register a list of information on which the rule is based,*  
5 *including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-*  
6 *benefit analyses, and identify how the public can access*  
7 *such information online, and shall submit to each House*  
8 *of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report*  
9 *containing—*

10               “(i) *a copy of the rule;*

11               “(ii) *a concise general statement relating to the*  
12 *rule;*

13               “(iii) *a classification of the rule as a major or*  
14 *nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classi-*  
15 *fication specifically addressing each criteria for a*  
16 *major rule contained within subparagraphs (A)*  
17 *through (C) of section 804(2);*

18               “(iv) *a list of any other related regulatory ac-*  
19 *tions intended to implement the same statutory provi-*  
20 *sion or regulatory objective as well as the individual*  
21 *and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and*

22               “(v) *the proposed effective date of the rule.*

23       “(B) *On the date of the submission of the report under*  
24 *subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the*

1 *rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make*  
2 *available to each House of Congress—*

3           “(i) *a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis*  
4 *of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs*  
5 *added or lost, differentiating between public and pri-*  
6 *vate sector jobs;*

7           “(ii) *the agency’s actions pursuant to sections*  
8 *603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of this title;*

9           “(iii) *the agency’s actions pursuant to sections*  
10 *202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates*  
11 *Reform Act of 1995; and*

12           “(iv) *any other relevant information or require-*  
13 *ments under any other Act and any relevant Execu-*  
14 *tive orders.*

15           “(C) *Upon receipt of a report submitted under sub-*  
16 *paragraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report*  
17 *to the chairman and ranking member of each standing com-*  
18 *mittee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Rep-*  
19 *resentatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the pro-*  
20 *vision of law under which the rule is issued.*

21           “(2)(A) *The Comptroller General shall provide a re-*  
22 *port on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction*  
23 *by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or pub-*  
24 *lication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall*  
25 *include an assessment of the agency’s compliance with pro-*

1 *cedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assess-*  
2 *ment of whether the major rule imposes any new limits or*  
3 *mandates on private-sector activity.*

4       *“(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comp-*  
5 *troller General by providing information relevant to the*  
6 *Comptroller General’s report under subparagraph (A).*

7       *“(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under*  
8 *paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint*  
9 *resolution of approval described in section 802 or as pro-*  
10 *vided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolu-*  
11 *tion of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.*

12       *“(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by*  
13 *section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph*  
14 *(1).*

15       *“(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a*  
16 *major rule is not enacted within the period provided in sub-*  
17 *section (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating*  
18 *to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter*  
19 *in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives*  
20 *or the Senate.*

21       *“(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the*  
22 *Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described*  
23 *under section 802.*

24       *“(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a)*  
25 *is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or*

1 *legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on*  
2 *which the report referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) is re-*  
3 *ceived by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress*  
4 *is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Con-*  
5 *gress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be*  
6 *deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take ef-*  
7 *fect.*

8       “(c)(1) *Notwithstanding any other provision of this*  
9 *section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may*  
10 *take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President*  
11 *makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits*  
12 *written notice of such determination to the Congress.*

13       “(2) *Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made*  
14 *by the President by Executive order that the major rule*  
15 *should take effect because such rule is—*

16               “(A) *necessary because of an imminent threat to*  
17 *health or safety or other emergency;*

18               “(B) *necessary for the enforcement of criminal*  
19 *laws;*

20               “(C) *necessary for national security; or*

21               “(D) *issued pursuant to any statute imple-*  
22 *menting an international trade agreement.*

23       “(3) *An exercise by the President of the authority*  
24 *under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures*  
25 *under section 802.*

1       “(d)(1) *In addition to the opportunity for review oth-*  
2 *erwise provided under this chapter, in the case of any rule*  
3 *for which a report was submitted in accordance with sub-*  
4 *section (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date*  
5 *occurring—*

6               “(A) *in the case of the Senate, 60 session days;*  
7       *or*

8               “(B) *in the case of the House of Representatives,*  
9       *60 legislative days,*  
10 *before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session*  
11 *of Congress through the date on which the same or suc-*  
12 *ceeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 802*  
13 *and 803 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session*  
14 *of Congress.*

15       “(2)(A) *In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes*  
16 *of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph*  
17 *(1) shall be treated as though—*

18               “(i) *such rule were published in the Federal Reg-*  
19 *ister on—*

20               “(I) *in the case of the Senate, the 15th ses-*  
21 *sion day; or*

22               “(II) *in the case of the House of Representa-*  
23 *tives, the 15th legislative day,*  
24 *after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes;*  
25 *and*



1           “(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to  
2 Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

3           “(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
4 affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report  
5 shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

6           “(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take  
7 effect as otherwise provided by law (including other sub-  
8 sections of this section).

9           **“§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major**  
10   **rules**

11           “(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint res-  
12 olution’ means only a joint resolution addressing a report  
13 classifying a rule as major pursuant to section  
14 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

15                   “(A) bears no preamble;

16                   “(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled  
17 as appropriate): ‘Approving the rule submitted by  
18 \_\_\_\_\_ relating to \_\_\_\_\_.’;

19                   “(C) includes after its resolving clause only the  
20 following (with blanks filled as appropriate): ‘That  
21 Congress approves the rule submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ re-  
22 lating to \_\_\_\_\_.’; and

23                   “(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

24           “(2) After a House of Congress receives a report  
25 classifying a rule as major pursuant to section

1 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his  
2 or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if ap-  
3 propriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

4 “(A) in the case of the House of Representatives,  
5 within 3 legislative days; and

6 “(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session  
7 days.

8 “(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1)  
9 shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of pro-  
10 ceeding.

11 “(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall  
12 be referred in each House of Congress to the committees hav-  
13 ing jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the  
14 rule is issued.

15 “(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to  
16 which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been  
17 referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days  
18 after its introduction, such committee or committees shall  
19 be automatically discharged from further consideration of  
20 the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote  
21 on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before  
22 the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is re-  
23 ported by the committee or committees to which it was re-  
24 ferred, or after such committee or committees have been dis-  
25 charged from further consideration of the resolution.

1       “(d)(1) *In the Senate, when the committee or commit-*  
2 *tees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported,*  
3 *or when a committee or committees are discharged (under*  
4 *subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolu-*  
5 *tion described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter*  
6 *in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect*  
7 *has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consid-*  
8 *eration of the joint resolution, and all points of order*  
9 *against the joint resolution (and against consideration of*  
10 *the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject*  
11 *to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion*  
12 *to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion*  
13 *to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or*  
14 *disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed*  
15 *to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the*  
16 *joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the*  
17 *Senate until disposed of.*

18       “(2) *In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and*  
19 *on all debatable motions and appeals in connection there-*  
20 *with, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall*  
21 *be divided equally between those favoring and those oppos-*  
22 *ing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate*  
23 *is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a mo-*  
24 *tion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration*

1 *of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolu-*  
2 *tion is not in order.*

3       “(3) *In the Senate, immediately following the conclu-*  
4 *sion of the debate on a joint resolution described in sub-*  
5 *section (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of*  
6 *the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the*  
7 *Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall*  
8 *occur.*

9       “(4) *Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating*  
10 *to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure*  
11 *relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a)*  
12 *shall be decided without debate.*

13       “(e) *In the House of Representatives, if any committee*  
14 *to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has*  
15 *been referred has not reported it to the House at the end*  
16 *of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee*  
17 *shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint*  
18 *resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate cal-*  
19 *endar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month*  
20 *it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize*  
21 *a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has*  
22 *appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to*  
23 *call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration*  
24 *in the House without intervention of any point of order.*  
25 *When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as*

1 *read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and*  
2 *controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the pre-*  
3 *vious question shall be considered as ordered to its passage*  
4 *without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to re-*  
5 *consider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of*  
6 *the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thurs-*  
7 *day on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under*  
8 *this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.*

9       “(f)(1) *If, before passing a joint resolution described*  
10 *in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint*  
11 *resolution having the same text, then—*

12               “(A) *the joint resolution of the other House shall*  
13 *not be referred to a committee; and*

14               “(B) *the procedure in the receiving House shall*  
15 *be the same as if no joint resolution had been received*  
16 *from the other House until the vote on passage, when*  
17 *the joint resolution received from the other House*  
18 *shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving*  
19 *House.*

20       “(2) *This subsection shall not apply to the House of*  
21 *Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Sen-*  
22 *ate is a revenue measure.*

23       “(g) *If either House has not taken a vote on final pas-*  
24 *sage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period*

1 *described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken*  
2 *on that day.*

3       “(h) *This section and section 803 are enacted by Con-*  
4 *gress—*

5               “(1) *as an exercise of the rulemaking power of*  
6 *the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively,*  
7 *and as such are deemed to be part of the rules of each*  
8 *House, respectively, but applicable only with respect*  
9 *to the procedure to be followed in that House in the*  
10 *case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a)*  
11 *and superseding other rules only where explicitly so;*  
12 *and*

13               “(2) *with full recognition of the constitutional*  
14 *right of either House to change the rules (so far as*  
15 *they relate to the procedure of that House) at any*  
16 *time, in the same manner and to the same extent as*  
17 *in the case of any other rule of that House.*

18 **“§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for**  
19 ***nonmajor rules***

20               “(a) *For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolu-*  
21 *tion’ means only a joint resolution introduced in the period*  
22 *beginning on the date on which the report referred to in*  
23 *section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60*  
24 *days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is*  
25 *adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Con-*

1 gress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as  
2 follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule sub-  
3 mitted by the \_\_\_\_\_ relating to \_\_\_\_\_, and such rule  
4 shall have no force or effect.’ (The blank spaces being appro-  
5 priately filled in).

6 “(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall  
7 be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with  
8 jurisdiction.

9 “(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred  
10 a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not re-  
11 ported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolu-  
12 tion) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduc-  
13 tion of the joint resolution, such committee may be dis-  
14 charged from further consideration of such joint resolution  
15 upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the  
16 Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the cal-  
17 endar.

18 “(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which  
19 a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a com-  
20 mittee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further con-  
21 sideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a),  
22 it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous  
23 motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion  
24 to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and  
25 all points of order against the joint resolution (and against

1 *consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The mo-*  
2 *tion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to post-*  
3 *pone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other*  
4 *business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the mo-*  
5 *tion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If*  
6 *a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolu-*  
7 *tion is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfin-*  
8 *ished business of the Senate until disposed of.*

9       “(2) *In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and*  
10 *on all debatable motions and appeals in connection there-*  
11 *with, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which*  
12 *shall be divided equally between those favoring and those*  
13 *opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit de-*  
14 *bate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or*  
15 *a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consid-*  
16 *eration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint*  
17 *resolution is not in order.*

18       “(3) *In the Senate, immediately following the conclu-*  
19 *sion of the debate on a joint resolution described in sub-*  
20 *section (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of*  
21 *the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the*  
22 *Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall*  
23 *occur.*

24       “(4) *Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating*  
25 *to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure*



1 *relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a)*  
2 *shall be decided without debate.*

3 “(e) *In the Senate, the procedure specified in sub-*  
4 *section (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of*  
5 *a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—*

6 “(1) *after the expiration of the 60 session days*  
7 *beginning with the applicable submission or publica-*  
8 *tion date; or*

9 “(2) *if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was*  
10 *submitted during the period referred to in section*  
11 *801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days*  
12 *beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding*  
13 *session of Congress first convenes.*

14 “(f) *If, before the passage by one House of a joint reso-*  
15 *lution of that House described in subsection (a), that House*  
16 *receives from the other House a joint resolution described*  
17 *in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:*

18 “(1) *The joint resolution of the other House shall*  
19 *not be referred to a committee.*

20 “(2) *With respect to a joint resolution described*  
21 *in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint reso-*  
22 *lution—*

23 “(A) *the procedure in that House shall be*  
24 *the same as if no joint resolution had been re-*  
25 *ceived from the other House; but*

1                   “(B) the vote on final passage shall be on  
2                   the joint resolution of the other House.

3 **“§ 804. Definitions**

4                   “For purposes of this chapter:

5                   “(1) The term ‘Federal agency’ means any agen-  
6                   cy as that term is defined in section 551(1).

7                   “(2) The term ‘major rule’ means any rule, in-  
8                   cluding an interim final rule, that the Administrator  
9                   of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of  
10                  the Office of Management and Budget finds has re-  
11                  sulted in or is likely to result in—

12                  “(A) an annual effect on the economy of  
13                  \$100 million or more;

14                  “(B) a major increase in costs or prices for  
15                  consumers, individual industries, Federal, State,  
16                  or local government agencies, or geographic re-  
17                  gions; or

18                  “(C) significant adverse effects on competi-  
19                  tion, employment, investment, productivity, in-  
20                  novation, or the ability of United States-based  
21                  enterprises to compete with foreign-based enter-  
22                  prises in domestic and export markets.

23                  “(3) The term ‘nonmajor rule’ means any rule  
24                  that is not a major rule.

1           “(4) The term ‘rule’ has the meaning given such  
2 term in section 551, except that such term does not  
3 include—

4           “(A) any rule of particular applicability,  
5 including a rule that approves or prescribes for  
6 the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allow-  
7 ances therefore, corporate or financial structures,  
8 reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof,  
9 or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on  
10 any of the foregoing;

11           “(B) any rule relating to agency manage-  
12 ment or personnel; or

13           “(C) any rule of agency organization, pro-  
14 cedure, or practice that does not substantially af-  
15 fect the rights or obligations of non-agency par-  
16 ties.

17           “(5) The term ‘submission or publication date’,  
18 except as otherwise provided in this chapter, means—

19           “(A) in the case of a major rule, the date  
20 on which the Congress receives the report sub-  
21 mitted under section 801(a)(1); and

22           “(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the  
23 later of—

1                   “(i) the date on which the Congress re-  
2                   ceives the report submitted under section  
3                   801(a)(1); and

4                   “(ii) the date on which the nonmajor  
5                   rule is published in the *Federal Register*, if  
6                   so published.

7   **“§ 805. Judicial review**

8                   “(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission  
9                   under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

10                  “(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may de-  
11                  termine whether a Federal agency has completed the nec-  
12                  essary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take  
13                  effect.

14                  “(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval  
15                  under section 802 shall not be interpreted to serve as a  
16                  grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress  
17                  for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect  
18                  any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any  
19                  alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record  
20                  before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a  
21                  rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the  
22                  rule is in effect.

23   **“§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy**

24                  “Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that con-  
25                  cern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the

1 *Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the*  
2 *Federal Open Market Committee.*

3 **“§ 807. Effective date of certain rules**

4 *“Notwithstanding section 801—*

5 *“(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens,*  
6 *closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a com-*  
7 *mercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to*  
8 *hunting, fishing, or camping; or*

9 *“(2) any rule other than a major rule which an*  
10 *agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the*  
11 *finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in*  
12 *the rule issued) that notice and public procedure*  
13 *thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to*  
14 *the public interest,*  
15 *shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promul-*  
16 *gating the rule determines.”.*

17 **SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SEC-**  
18 **TION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.**

19 *Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-*  
20 *gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is*  
21 *amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-*  
22 *graph:*

23 *“(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUB-*  
24 *JECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED*  
25 *STATES CODE.—Any rule subject to the congres-*

1           sional approval procedure set forth in section  
2           802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code,  
3           affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts  
4           shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not  
5           approved in accordance with such section.”.

6 **SEC. 5. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF**  
7           **RULES.**

8           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Comptroller General of the  
9           United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the  
10          date of the enactment of this Act—

11                 (1) *how many rules (as such term is defined in*  
12                 *section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in ef-*  
13                 *fect;*

14                 (2) *how many major rules (as such term is de-*  
15                 *fin ed in section 804 of title 5, United States Code)*  
16                 *were in effect; and*

17                 (3) *the total estimated economic cost imposed by*  
18                 *all such rules.*

19           (b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
20           the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the  
21           United States shall submit a report to Congress that con-  
22           tains the findings of the study conducted under subsection  
23           (a).



Union Calendar No. 61

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**H. R. 277**

[Report No. 118-84, Part I]

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**A BILL**

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

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JUNE 1, 2023

Reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment

JUNE 1, 2023

Committees on Rules and the Budget discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed