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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To establish the Independent Government Waste Reduction Board to make recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. BUSTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To establish the Independent Government Waste Reduction Board to make recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Federal programs, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Government Waste Reduction Act of 2015”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Establishment of Board.
- Sec. 3. Duties of the Board.
- Sec. 4. Powers of the Board.
- Sec. 5. Board personnel matters.
- Sec. 6. Congressional consideration of Board recommendations.
- Sec. 7. Agency defined.
- Sec. 8. Termination of the Board.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Inde-  
3 pendent Government Waste Reduction Board (hereafter in  
4 this Act referred to as the “Board”).

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—

7 (A) APPOINTMENT.—The Board shall be  
8 composed of 15 members appointed by the  
9 President, by and with the advice and consent  
10 of Congress.

11 (B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of  
12 the Board shall include individuals with na-  
13 tional recognition for their expertise in agen-  
14 cies, efficiency, waste reduction, finance and ec-  
15 onomics, actuarial sciences, who provide a mix  
16 of different professionals, broad geographic rep-  
17 resentation, and a balance between urban and  
18 rural representatives.

19 (C) ETHICAL DISCLOSURE.—The President  
20 shall establish a system for public disclosure by  
21 members of the Board of financial and other

1 potential conflicts of interest relating to such  
2 members. Members of the Board shall be treat-  
3 ed as officers in the executive branch for pur-  
4 poses of applying title I of the Ethics in Gov-  
5 ernment Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–521).

6 (D) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—No indi-  
7 vidual may serve as a member of the Board if  
8 that individual engages in any other business,  
9 vocation, or employment.

10 (E) CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.—In  
11 selecting individuals for nominations for ap-  
12 pointments to the Board, the President shall  
13 consult with—

14 (i) the majority leader of the Senate  
15 concerning the appointment of 3 members;

16 (ii) the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
17 resentatives concerning the appointment of  
18 3 members;

19 (iii) the minority leader of the Senate  
20 concerning the appointment of 3 members;  
21 and

22 (iv) the minority leader of the House  
23 of Representatives concerning the appoint-  
24 ment of 3 members.

1           (2) TERM OF OFFICE.—Each member shall  
2 hold office for the duration of the Board.

3           (3) CHAIRPERSON.—

4           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson shall  
5 be appointed by the President, by and with the  
6 advice and consent of the Senate, from among  
7 the members of the Board.

8           (B) DUTIES.—The Chairperson shall be  
9 the principal executive officer of the Board, and  
10 shall exercise all of the executive and adminis-  
11 trative functions of the Board, including func-  
12 tions of the Board with respect to—

13           (i) the appointment and supervision of  
14 personnel employed by the Board;

15           (ii) the distribution of business among  
16 personnel appointed and supervised by the  
17 Chairperson and among administrative  
18 units of the Board; and

19           (iii) the use and expenditure of funds.

20           (C) GOVERNANCE.—In carrying out any of  
21 the functions under subparagraph (B), the  
22 Chairperson shall be governed by the general  
23 policies established by the Board and by the de-  
24 cisions, findings, and determinations the Board  
25 shall by law be authorized to make.

1 (D) REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 Requests or estimates for regular, supple-  
3 mental, or deficiency appropriations on behalf  
4 of the Board may not be submitted by the  
5 Chairperson without the prior approval of a ma-  
6 jority vote of the Board.

7 (4) REMOVAL.—Any member may be removed  
8 by the President for neglect of duty or malfeasance  
9 in office, but for no other cause.

10 (c) VACANCIES; QUORUM; SEAL; VICE CHAIRPERSON;  
11 VOTING ON REPORTS.—

12 (1) VACANCIES.—No vacancy on the Board  
13 shall impair the right of the remaining members to  
14 exercise all the powers of the Board.

15 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
16 the Board shall constitute a quorum for the trans-  
17 action of business, but a lesser number of members  
18 may hold hearings.

19 (3) SEAL.—The Board shall have an official  
20 seal, of which judicial notice shall be taken.

21 (4) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Board shall elect  
22 a Vice Chairperson to act in the absence or disability  
23 of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy in the of-  
24 fice of the Chairperson.

1           (5) VOTING ON PROPOSALS.—Any proposal of  
2           the Board must be approved by the majority of  
3           members present.

4 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE BOARD.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall—

6           (1) review the reports described in subsection

7           (b)(1);

8           (2) analyze organizational practices and man-  
9           agement challenges of agencies and make rec-  
10          ommendations;

11          (3) assess Federal programs for economy, effi-  
12          ciency, and effectiveness, and identify best practices  
13          of agencies;

14          (4) establish a process for prioritizing the ac-  
15          tivities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), in-  
16          cluding establishing criteria and a schedule for car-  
17          rying out the activities;

18          (5) consult with appropriate agencies and pro-  
19          vide opportunities for individuals to make rec-  
20          ommendations that support the work of the Board;  
21          and

22          (6) serve as a repository for best practices to  
23          support agencies in efforts to improve effectiveness.

24          (b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than one  
25          year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board

1 shall submit to Congress and the President a report that  
2 includes the following:

3 (1) Recommendations for specific implementa-  
4 tion of the recommendations from each of the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 (A) The March 2011 Government Account-  
7 ability Office report to Congress, entitled “Op-  
8 portunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in  
9 Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and  
10 Enhance Revenue” (GAO–11–318SP).

11 (B) The February 2012 Government Ac-  
12 countability Office report to Congress, entitled  
13 “Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap  
14 and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and En-  
15 hance Revenue” (GAO–12–342SP).

16 (C) The April 2013 Government Account-  
17 ability Office report to Congress, entitled “Ac-  
18 tions Needed to Reduce Fragmentation, Over-  
19 lap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Finan-  
20 cial Benefits” (GAO–13–279SP).

21 (D) The April 2014 Government Account-  
22 ability Office report to Congress, entitled “Ad-  
23 ditional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmenta-  
24 tion, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve  
25 Other Financial Benefits” (GAO–14–343SP).

1 (2) A summary of the recommendations.

2 (3) An explanation of each recommendation  
3 contained in the report and the reasons for including  
4 such recommendation.

5 (4) An opinion by the Government Account-  
6 ability Office on whether each recommendation is  
7 consistent with the intent of such Government Ac-  
8 countability Office reports.

9 (5) A legislative proposal that implements the  
10 recommendations.

11 (6) Recommendations for organizational prac-  
12 tices and management challenges of agencies ana-  
13 lyzed in subsection (a)(2).

14 (7) Recommendations for implementing the best  
15 practices of agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)  
16 in other agencies.

17 (8) Proposals for administrative action or exec-  
18 utive action that include recommendations—

19 (A) for improvement or investment in Fed-  
20 eral programs; or

21 (B) achieving efficiency and effectiveness  
22 in Federal programs.

23 (9) Other information determined appropriate  
24 by the Board.

25 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIREMENTS.—

1           (1) REQUIREMENTS.—Each recommendation in  
2           the report submitted under subsection (b)—

3                   (A) shall result in a decrease of overall  
4           Government spending or an increase of Govern-  
5           ment revenue; and

6                   (B) shall not result in—

7                           (i) any cut in benefits for veterans,  
8                           members of the Armed Forces, or their  
9                           families; or

10                           (ii) any cut in benefits for seniors, in-  
11                           cluding—

12                                   (I) the elimination of guaranteed  
13                                   health insurance benefits for seniors  
14                                   or people with disabilities;

15                                   (II) the conversion of Medicare  
16                                   into a voucher plan that provides lim-  
17                                   ited payments to seniors or people  
18                                   with disabilities to purchase health  
19                                   care in the private health insurance  
20                                   market;

21                                   (III) cuts in Medicaid health in-  
22                                   surance benefits;

23                                   (IV) cuts in nursing home care;  
24                                   or

1 (V) privatization of Social Secu-  
2 rity benefits.

3 (2) CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—

4 The Board shall consult regularly with the Govern-  
5 ment Accountability Office and other agencies in  
6 making the recommendations required under this  
7 section.

8 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—Not later  
9 than 90 days after the date on which a report is submitted  
10 under subsection (b), the report shall be made available  
11 to the public.

12 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF THE BOARD.**

13 (a) HEARINGS.—The Board may hold such hearings,  
14 sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony,  
15 and receive such evidence as the Board considers advisable  
16 to carry out this Act.

17 (b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Board may  
18 secure directly from any agency information necessary to  
19 enable it to carry out this section. Upon request of the  
20 Chairperson, the head of that agency shall furnish that  
21 information to the Board on an agreed upon schedule.

22 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Board may use the  
23 United States mails in the same manner and under the  
24 same conditions as other agencies.

1 (d) GIFTS.—The Board may accept, use, and dispose  
2 of gifts or donations of services or property.

3 (e) OFFICES.—The Board shall maintain a principal  
4 office and such field offices as it determines necessary, and  
5 may meet and exercise any of its powers at any other  
6 place.

7 **SEC. 5. BOARD PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

8 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS AND CHAIR-  
9 PERSON.—Each member of the Board, other than the  
10 Chairperson, shall be compensated at a rate equal to the  
11 annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level III of the Ex-  
12 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United  
13 States Code. The Chairperson shall be compensated at a  
14 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of  
15 basic pay prescribed for level II of the Executive Schedule  
16 under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

17 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Board  
18 shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu  
19 of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agen-  
20 cies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United  
21 States Code, while away from their homes or regular  
22 places of business in the performance of services for the  
23 Board.

24 (c) STAFF.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson may, with-  
2           out regard to the civil service laws and regulations,  
3           appoint and terminate an executive director and  
4           such other additional personnel as may be necessary  
5           to enable the Board to perform its duties. The em-  
6           ployment of an executive director shall be subject to  
7           confirmation by the Board.

8           (2) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson may fix  
9           the compensation of the executive director and other  
10          personnel without regard to chapter 51 and sub-  
11          chapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States  
12          Code, relating to classification of positions and Gen-  
13          eral Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay  
14          for the executive director and other personnel may  
15          not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Execu-  
16          tive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

17          (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any  
18          Federal Government employee may be detailed to the  
19          Board without reimbursement, and such detail shall be  
20          without interruption or loss of civil service status or privi-  
21          lege.

22          (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-  
23          TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson may procure tem-  
24          porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of  
25          title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which

1 do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of  
2 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule  
3 under section 5316 of such title.

4 **SEC. 6. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF BOARD REC-**  
5 **COMMENDATIONS.**

6 (a) INTRODUCTION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the day on which the re-  
8 port is submitted by the Board to the Congress  
9 under section 3(b), the legislative proposal (de-  
10 scribed in section 3(a)(5)) contained in the report  
11 shall be introduced (by request) in the Senate by the  
12 majority leader of the Senate or by Members of the  
13 Senate designated by the majority leader of the Sen-  
14 ate and shall be introduced (by request) in the  
15 House by the majority leader of the House or by  
16 Members of the House designated by the majority  
17 leader of the House.

18 (2) NOT IN SESSION.—If either House is not in  
19 session on the day on which such legislative proposal  
20 is submitted, the legislative proposal shall be intro-  
21 duced in that House, as provided in subparagraph  
22 (A), on the first day thereafter on which that House  
23 is in session.

24 (3) ANY MEMBER.—If the legislative proposal is  
25 not introduced in either House within 5 days on

1       which that House is in session after the day on  
2       which the legislative proposal is submitted, then any  
3       Member of that House may introduce the legislative  
4       proposal.

5           (4) REFERRAL.—The legislation introduced  
6       under this subsection in the House of Representa-  
7       tives shall be referred to the Committee on Over-  
8       sight and Government Reform of the House of Rep-  
9       resentatives. The legislation introduced under this  
10      subsection in the Senate shall be referred to the  
11      Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
12      Affairs of the Senate.

13      (b) DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a legisla-  
14      tive proposal described in subsection (a) is referred has  
15      not reported the bill containing such proposal by the end  
16      of the 20-day period beginning on the date on which the  
17      Board submits the report to Congress under section 3(b),  
18      such committee shall be, at the end of such period, dis-  
19      charged from further consideration of such bill, and such  
20      bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar of the  
21      House involved.

22      (c) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—

23           (1) CONSIDERATION.—On or after the third  
24      day after the date on which the committee to which  
25      such a bill is referred has reported, or has been dis-

1 charged (under subsection (b)) from further consid-  
2 eration of, such a bill, it is in order (even though a  
3 previous motion to the same effect has been dis-  
4 agreed to) for any Member of the respective House  
5 to move to proceed to the consideration of the bill.  
6 A member may make the motion only on the day  
7 after the calendar day on which the Member an-  
8 nounces to the House concerned the Member's inten-  
9 tion to make the motion, except that, in the case of  
10 the House of Representatives, the motion may be  
11 made without such prior announcement if the mo-  
12 tion is made by direction of the committee to which  
13 the bill was referred. The motion is highly privileged  
14 in the House of Representatives and is privileged in  
15 the Senate and is not debatable. The motion is not  
16 subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone,  
17 or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of  
18 other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by  
19 which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall  
20 not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consid-  
21 eration of the bill is agreed to, the respective House  
22 shall immediately proceed to consideration of the bill  
23 without intervening motion, order, or other business,  
24 and the bill shall remain the unfinished business of  
25 the respective House until disposed of.

1           (2) DEBATE.—Debate on the bill, and on all  
2           debatable motions and appeals in connection there-  
3           with, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours,  
4           which shall be divided equally between those favoring  
5           and those opposing the bill. An amendment to the  
6           bill is not in order. A motion further to limit debate  
7           is in order and not debatable. A motion to postpone,  
8           or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other  
9           business, or a motion to recommit the bill is not in  
10          order. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the  
11          bill is agreed to or disagreed to is not in order.

12          (3) VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE.—Immediately  
13          following the conclusion of the debate on the bill and  
14          a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate  
15          if requested in accordance with the rules of the ap-  
16          propriate House, the vote on final passage of the bill  
17          shall occur.

18          (4) APPEALS.—Appeals from the decisions of  
19          the Chair relating to the application of the rules of  
20          the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the  
21          case may be, to the procedure relating to the bill  
22          shall be decided without debate.

23          (d) CONSIDERATION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

24                 (1) BEFORE PASSAGE.—If, before the passage  
25                 by one House of a bill of that House described in

1 subsection (b), that House receives from the other  
2 House a bill described in subsection (b), then the  
3 following procedures shall apply—

4 (A) the bill of the other House shall not be  
5 referred to a committee and may not be consid-  
6 ered in the House receiving it except in the case  
7 of final passage as provided in subparagraph  
8 (B)(ii); and

9 (B) with respect to a bill described in sub-  
10 section (b) of the House receiving the bill (i)  
11 the procedure in that House shall be the same  
12 as if no bill had been received from the other  
13 House; but (ii) the vote on final passage shall  
14 be on the bill of the other House.

15 (2) AFTER PASSAGE.—Upon disposition of the  
16 bill received from the other House, it shall no longer  
17 be in order to consider the bill that originated in the  
18 receiving House.

19 (e) RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE.—This sec-  
20 tion is enacted by Congress—

21 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
22 the Senate and House of Representatives, respec-  
23 tively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules  
24 of each House, respectively, but applicable only with  
25 respect to the procedure to be followed in that

1 House in the case of a bill described in subsection  
2 (b), and it supersedes other rules only to the extent  
3 that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

4 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
5 right of either House to change the rules (so far as  
6 relating to the procedure of that House) at any time,  
7 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in  
8 the case of any other rule of that House.

9 (f) **CALENDAR DAY DEFINED.**—In this section, the  
10 term “calendar day” means a calendar day other than one  
11 on which either House is not in session because of an ad-  
12 journment of more than three days to a date certain.

13 **SEC. 7. AGENCY DEFINED.**

14 In this Act, the term “agency” has the meaning given  
15 that term under section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION OF THE BOARD.**

17 The Board shall terminate 120 days after the date  
18 on which the Board submits the report under section 3(b).