

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

February 29, 2016.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1172) entitled “An Act to improve the process of presidential transition.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Edward ‘Ted’ Kaufman*
3 *and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improve-*
4 *ments Act of 2015”.*

5 SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION IMPROVEMENTS.

6 (a) *IN GENERAL.—The Presidential Transition Act of*

7 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 4, 5, and 6 as sections 5, 6, and 7, respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after section 3 the following:

11 "SEC. 4. TRANSITION S

12 ***ELECTION.***

13 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section—
14 “(1) the term ‘Administrator’ means the Admin-
15 istrator of General Services;

1 “(2) the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agen-
2 cy, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States
3 Code;

4 “(3) the term ‘eligible candidate’ has the mean-
5 ing given that term in section 3(h)(4); and

6 “(4) the term ‘Presidential election’ means a gen-
7 eral election held to determine the electors of President
8 and Vice President under section 1 or 2 of title 3,
9 United States Code.

10 “(b) *GENERAL DUTIES*.—The President shall take such
11 actions as the President determines necessary and appro-
12 priate to plan and coordinate activities by the Executive
13 branch of the Federal Government to facilitate an efficient
14 transfer of power to a successor President, including by—

15 “(1) establishing and operating a White House
16 transition coordinating council in accordance with
17 subsection (d); and

18 “(2) establishing and operating an agency tran-
19 sition directors council in accordance with subsection
20 (e).

21 “(c) *FEDERAL TRANSITION COORDINATOR*.—The Ad-
22 ministrator shall designate an employee of the General
23 Services Administration who is a senior career appointee
24 to—

1 “(1) carry out the duties and authorities of the
2 General Services Administration relating to Presi-
3 dential transitions under this Act or any other provi-
4 sion of law;

5 “(2) serve as the Federal Transition Coordinator
6 with responsibility for coordinating transition plan-
7 ning across agencies, including through the agency
8 transition directors council established under sub-
9 section (e);

10 “(3) ensure agencies comply with all statutory
11 requirements relating to transition planning and re-
12 porting; and

13 “(4) act as a liaison to eligible candidates.

14 “(d) WHITE HOUSE TRANSITION COORDINATING
15 COUNCIL.—

16 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months
17 before the date of a Presidential election, the President
18 shall establish a White House transition coordinating
19 council for purposes of facilitating the Presidential
20 transition.

21 “(2) DUTIES.—The White House transition co-
22 ordinating council shall—

23 “(A) provide guidance to agencies and the
24 Federal Transition Coordinator regarding prep-
25 arations for the Presidential transition, includ-

1 *ing succession planning and preparation of
2 briefing materials;*

3 “(B) facilitate communication and infor-
4 mation sharing between the transition represent-
5 atives of eligible candidates and senior employees
6 in agencies and the Executive Office of the Presi-
7 dent; and

8 “(C) prepare and host interagency emer-
9 gency preparedness and response exercises.

10 “(3) *MEMBERSHIP.*—The members of the White
11 House transition coordinating council shall include—

12 “(A) senior employees of the Executive
13 branch selected by the President, which may in-
14 clude the Chief of Staff to the President, any
15 Cabinet officer, the Director of the Office of Man-
16 agement and Budget, the Administrator, the Di-
17 rector of the Office of Personnel Management, the
18 Director of the Office of Government Ethics, and
19 the Archivist of the United States;

20 “(B) the Federal Transition Coordinator;

21 “(C) the transition representative for each
22 eligible candidate, who shall serve in an advisory
23 capacity; and

24 “(D) any other individual the President de-
25 termines appropriate.

1 “(4) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
2 White House transition coordinating council shall be
3 a senior employee in the Executive Office of the Presi-
4 dent, designated by the President.

5 “(e) AGENCY TRANSITION DIRECTORS COUNCIL.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish
7 and operate an agency transition directors council,
8 which shall—

9 “(A) ensure the Federal Government has an
10 integrated strategy for addressing interagency
11 challenges and responsibilities around Presi-
12 dential transitions and turnover of noncareer
13 appointees;

14 “(B) coordinate transition activities be-
15 tween the Executive Office of the President, agen-
16 cies, and the transition team of eligible can-
17 didates and the President-elect and Vice-Presi-
18 dent-elect; and

19 “(C) draw on guidance provided by the
20 White House transition coordinating council and
21 lessons learned from previous Presidential tran-
22 sitions in carrying out its duties.

23 “(2) DUTIES.—As part of carrying out the re-
24 sponsibilities under paragraph (1), the agency transi-
25 tion directors council shall—

1 “(A) assist the Federal Transition Coordinator
2 in identifying and carrying out the responsibilities
3 of the Federal Transition Coordinator relating to a Presidential transition;

5 “(B) provide guidance to agencies in gathering briefing materials and information relating
6 to the Presidential transition that may be requested by eligible candidates;

9 “(C) ensure materials and information described in subparagraph (B) are prepared not later than November 1 of a year during which a Presidential election is held;

13 “(D) ensure agencies adequately prepare career employees who are designated to fill non-career positions under subsection (f) during a Presidential transition; and

17 “(E) consult with the President’s Management Council, or any successor thereto, in carrying out the duties of the agency transition directors council.

21 “(3) *MEMBERSHIP.*—The members of the agency transition directors council shall include—

23 “(A) the Federal Transition Coordinator
24 and the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall

1 *serve as Co-Chairpersons of the agency transition*
2 *directors council;*

3 “(B) other senior employees serving in the
4 *Executive Office of the President, as determined*
5 *by the President;*

6 “(C) a senior representative from each agen-
7 *cy described in section 901(b)(1) of title 31,*
8 *United States Code, the Office of Personnel Man-*
9 *agement, the Office of Government Ethics, and*
10 *the National Archives and Records Administra-*
11 *tion whose responsibilities include leading Presi-*
12 *dential transition efforts within the agency;*

13 “(D) a senior representative from any other
14 *agency determined by the Co-Chairpersons to be*
15 *an agency that has significant responsibilities*
16 *relating to the Presidential transition process;*
17 *and*

18 “(E) during a year during which a Presi-
19 *dential election will be held, a transition rep-*
20 *resentative for each eligible candidate, who shall*
21 *serve in an advisory capacity.*

22 “(4) MEETINGS.—The agency transition direc-
23 *tors council shall meet—*

24 “(A) subject to subparagraph (B), not less
25 *than once per year; and*

1 “(B) during the period beginning on the
2 date that is 6 months before a Presidential elec-
3 tion and ending on the date on which the Presi-
4 dent-elect is inaugurated, on a regular basis as
5 necessary to carry out the duties and authorities
6 of the agency transition directors council.

7 “(f) *INTERIM AGENCY LEADERSHIP FOR TRANSI-*
8 TIONS.—

9 “(1) *OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF*
10 *TRANSITION.*—Not later than 6 months before the date
11 of a Presidential election, the head of each agency
12 shall designate a senior career employee of the agency
13 and a senior career employee of each major compo-
14 nent and subcomponent of the agency to oversee and
15 implement the activities of the agency, component, or
16 subcomponent relating to the Presidential transition.

17 “(2) *ACTING OFFICERS.*—Not later than Sep-
18 tember 15 of a year during which a Presidential elec-
19 tion occurs, and in accordance with subchapter III of
20 chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, for each
21 noncareer position in an agency that the head of the
22 agency determines is critical, the head of the agency
23 shall designate a qualified career employee to serve in
24 the position in an acting capacity if the position be-
25 comes vacant.

1 “(g) *MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.*—

2 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than November 1 of
3 a year during which a Presidential election occurs,
4 the President (acting through the Federal Transition
5 Coordinator) shall, to the maximum extent prac-
6 ticable, negotiate a memorandum of understanding
7 with the transition representative of each eligible can-
8 didate, which shall include, at a minimum, the condi-
9 tions of access to employees, facilities, and documents
10 of agencies by transition staff.

11 “(2) *EXISTING RESOURCES.*—To the maximum
12 extent practicable, the memorandums of under-
13 standing negotiated under paragraph (1) shall be
14 based on memorandums of understanding from pre-
15 vious Presidential transitions.

16 “(h) *EQUITY IN ASSISTANCE.*—Any information or
17 other assistance provided to eligible candidates under this
18 section shall be offered on an equal basis and without regard
19 to political affiliation.

20 “(i) *REPORTS.*—

21 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The President, acting
22 through the Federal Transition Coordinator, shall
23 submit to the Committee on Oversight and Govern-
24 ment Reform of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental

1 *Affairs of the Senate reports describing the activities*
2 *undertaken by the President and agencies to prepare*
3 *for the transfer of power to a new President.*

4 “(2) *TIMING*.—*The reports under paragraph (1)*
5 *shall be provided 6 months and 3 months before the*
6 *date of a Presidential election.”.*

7 (b) *OTHER IMPROVEMENTS*.—*Section 3 of the Presi-*
8 *dential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is*
9 *amended—*

10 (1) *in subsection (a)—*

11 (A) *in paragraph (8)—*

12 (i) *in subparagraph (A)(i)—*

13 (I) *by inserting “and during the*
14 *term of a President” after “during the*
15 *transition”; and*

16 (II) *by striking “after inaugura-*
17 *tion”; and*

18 (ii) *in subparagraph (B), by inserting*
19 *“or Executive agencies (as defined in sec-*
20 *tion 105 of title 5, United States Code)” be-*
21 *fore the period; and*

22 (B) *in paragraph (10), by inserting “in-*
23 *cluding, to the greatest extent practicable, human*
24 *resource management system software compatible*
25 *with the software used by the incumbent Presi-*

1 dent and likely to be used by the President-elect
2 and Vice President-elect” before the period;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “30 days”
4 and inserting “180 days”;

5 (3) in subsection (g), by inserting “except for ac-
6 tivities under subsection (a)(8)(A),” before “there
7 shall be no”; and

8 (4) in subsection (h)(2), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(D) An eligible candidate shall have a right to the
11 services and facilities described in this paragraph until the
12 date on which the Administrator is able to determine the
13 apparent successful candidates for the office of President
14 and Vice President.”.

15 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 3 of the Pre-Election Presidential
17 Transition Act of 2010 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is re-
18 pealed.

19 (2) The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3
20 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

21 (A) in section 3—

22 (i) in subsection (a)(4)(B), by striking
23 “section 6” and inserting “section 7”;

24 (ii) in subsection (b), in the matter
25 preceding paragraph (1), by striking “sec-

1 *tion 3 of this Act” and inserting “this sec-*
2 *tion”; and*

3 *(iii) in subsection (h)(3)(B)(iii), by*
4 *striking “section 5” each place it appears*
5 *and inserting “section 6”;*

6 *(B) in section 6, as redesignated by sub-*
7 *section (a) of this section, by striking “section*
8 *6(a)(1)” each place it appears and inserting*
9 *“section 7(a)(1)”;* and

10 *(C) in section 7(a)(2), as redesignated by*
11 *subsection (a) of this section, by striking “section*
12 *4” and inserting “section 5”.*

13 *(3) Section 8331(1)(K) of title 5, United States*
14 *Code, is amended by striking “section 4” and insert-*
15 *ing “section 5”.*

16 *(4) Section 8701(a)(10) of title 5, United States*
17 *Code, is amended by striking “section 4” and insert-*
18 *ing “section 5”.*

19 *(5) Section 8901(1)(I) of title 5, United States*
20 *Code, is amended by striking “section 4” and insert-*
21 *ing “section 5”.*

22 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL ARCHIVES PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION.**

23 *Section 2203(g) of title 44, United States Code, is*
24 *amended—*

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
2 graph (4); and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(3) When the President considers it practicable and
6 in the public interest, the President shall include in the
7 President’s budget transmitted to Congress, for each fiscal
8 year in which the term of office of the President will expire,
9 such funds as may be necessary for carrying out the au-
10 thorities of this subsection.”.

11 **SEC. 4. REPORTS ON POLITICAL APPOINTEES APPOINTED**
12 **TO NONPOLITICAL PERMANENT POSITIONS.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

14 (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given the
15 term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5,
16 United States Code;

17 (2) the term “covered civil service position”
18 means a position in the civil service (as defined in
19 section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) that is
20 not—

21 (A) a temporary position; or

22 (B) a political position;

23 (3) the term “former political appointee” means
24 an individual who—

1 (A) is not serving in an appointment to a
2 political position; and

3 (B) served as a political appointee during
4 the 5-year period ending on the date of the re-
5 quest for an appointment to a covered civil serv-
6 ice position in any agency;

7 (4) the term “political appointee” means an in-
8 dividual serving in an appointment to a political po-
9 sition; and

10 (5) the term “political position” means—

11 (A) a position described under sections 5312
12 through 5316 of title 5, United States Code (re-
13 lating to the Executive Schedule);

14 (B) a noncareer appointment in the Senior
15 Executive Service, as defined under paragraph
16 (7) of section 3132(a) of title 5, United States
17 Code; or

18 (C) a position in the executive branch of the
19 Government of a confidential or policy-deter-
20 mining character under schedule C of subpart C
21 of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regula-
22 tions.

23 (b) REPORTING ON CURRENT OR RECENT POLITICAL
24 APPOINTEES APPOINTED TO COVERED CIVIL SERVICE Po-
25 SITIONS.—

1 (1) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—Except as provided in
2 paragraph (2), the Director of the Office of Personnel
3 Management shall submit to the Committee on Home-
4 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate
5 and the Committee on Oversight and Government Re-
6 form of the House of Representatives an annual re-
7 port regarding requests by agencies to appoint politi-
8 cal appointees or former political appointees to cov-
9 ered civil service positions. Each report shall cover
10 one calendar year and shall—

11 (A) for each request by an agency that a po-
12 litical appointee be appointed to a covered civil
13 service position during the period covered by the
14 report, provide—

15 (i) the date on which the request was
16 received by the Office of Personnel Manage-
17 ment;

18 (ii) subject to subsection (c), the name
19 of the individual and the political position
20 held by the individual, including title, of-
21 fice, and agency;

22 (iii) the date on which the individual
23 was first appointed to a political position
24 in the agency in which the individual is
25 serving as a political appointee;

1 (iv) the grade and rate of basic pay for
2 the individual as a political appointee;

3 (v) the proposed covered civil service
4 position, including title, office, and agency,
5 and the proposed grade and rate of basic
6 pay for the individual;

7 (vi) whether the Office of Personnel
8 Management approved or denied the re-
9 quest; and

10 (vii) the date on which the individual
11 was appointed to a covered civil service po-
12 sition, if applicable; and

13 (B) for each request by an agency that a
14 former political appointee be appointed to a cov-
15 ered civil service position during the period cov-
16 ered by the report, provide—

17 (i) the date on which the request was
18 received by the Office of Personnel Manage-
19 ment;

20 (ii) subject to subsection (c), the name
21 of the individual and the political position
22 held by the individual, including title, of-
23 fice, and agency;

- 1 (iii) the date on which the individual
2 was first appointed to any political posi-
3 tion;
- 4 (iv) the grade and rate of basic pay for
5 the individual as a political appointee;
- 6 (v) the date on which the individual
7 ceased to serve in a political position;
- 8 (vi) the proposed covered civil service
9 position, including title, office, and agency,
10 and the proposed grade and rate of basic
11 pay for the individual;
- 12 (vii) whether the Office of Personnel
13 Management approved or denied the re-
14 quest; and
- 15 (viii) the date on which the individual
16 was first appointed to a covered civil service
17 position, if applicable.

18 (2) QUARTERLY REPORT IN CERTAIN YEARS.—In
19 the last year of the term of a President, or, if applica-
20 ble, the last year of the second consecutive term of a
21 President, the report required under paragraph (1)
22 shall be submitted quarterly and shall cover each
23 quarter of the year, except that the last quarterly re-
24 port shall also cover January 1 through 20 of the fol-
25 lowing year.

1 (c) NAMES AND TITLES OF CERTAIN APPOINTEES.—

2 If determined appropriate by the Director of the Office of
3 Personnel Management, a report submitted under sub-
4 section (b) may exclude the name or title of a political ap-
5 pointee or former political appointee—

6 (1) *who*—

(B) was not appointed to a covered civil service position; or

(2) relating to whom a request to be appointed to a covered civil service position is pending at the end of the period covered by that report.

14 SEC. 5. REPORT ON REGULATIONS PROMULGATED NEAR
15 THE END OF PRESIDENTIAL TERMS.

16 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

17 (1) The term “covered presidential transition pe-
18 riod” means each of the following:

19 (A) The 120-day period ending on January
20 20, 2001.

(B) The 120-day period ending on January 20, 2009.

(C) The 120-day period ending on January 20, 2017.

1 (2) The term “covered regulation” means a final
2 significant regulatory action promulgated by an Executive
3 department.

4 (3) The term “significant regulatory action” means any regulatory action that is likely to result
5 in a rule that may—

6 (A) have an annual effect on the economy of
7 \$100,000,000 or more or adversely affect in a
8 material way the economy, a sector of the economy,
9 productivity, competition, jobs, the environment,
10 public health or safety, or State, local, or
11 tribal governments or communities;

12 (B) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned
13 by another agency;

14 (C) materially alter the budgetary impact of
15 entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs
16 or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof;
17 or

18 (D) raise novel legal or policy issues.

19 (4) The term “Executive department” has the
20 meaning given that term under section 101 of title 5,
21 United States Code.

22 (b) REPORT.—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Comptroller General of*
2 *the United States shall submit to the Committee on*
3 *Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the*
4 *Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Govern-*
5 *ment Reform of the House of Representatives a report*
6 *regarding covered regulations promulgated during*
7 *each covered presidential transition period.*

8 (2) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.*—*The report required*
9 *under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent feasible, for*
10 *each covered presidential transition period—*

11 (A) *compare the number, scope, and impact*
12 *of, and type of rulemaking procedure used for,*
13 *covered regulations promulgated during the cov-*
14 *ered presidential transition period to the num-*
15 *ber, scope, and impact of, and type of rule-*
16 *making procedure used for, covered regulations*
17 *promulgated during the 120-day periods ending*
18 *on January 20 of each year after 1996, other*
19 *than 2001, 2009, and 2017;*

20 (B) *determine the statistical significance of*
21 *any differences identified under subparagraph*
22 *(A) and whether and to what extent such dif-*
23 *ferences indicate any patterns;*

1 (C) evaluate the size, scope, and effect of the
2 covered regulations promulgated during the cov-
3 ered presidential transition period; and

4 (D) assess the extent to which the regularly
5 required processes for the promulgation of cov-
6 ered regulations were followed during the covered
7 presidential transition period, including compli-
8 ance with the requirements under—

9 (i) chapter 8 of title 5, United States
10 Code (commonly known as the “Congres-
11 sional Review Act”);

12 (ii) the Small Business Regulatory En-
13 forcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C.
14 601 note);

15 (iii) sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of
16 the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995
17 (2 U.S.C. 1532–1535);

18 (iv) chapter 6 of title 5, United States
19 Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory
20 Flexibility Act”); and

21 (v) chapter 35 of title 44, United
22 States Code (commonly known as the “Pa-
23 perwork Reduction Act”).

1 **SEC. 6. ANALYSIS OF THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than February 15, 2016,
3 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the
4 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
5 fairs of the Senate and the Committees on Oversight and
6 Government Reform and Homeland Security of the House
7 of Representatives a report analyzing the threats and
8 vulnerabilities facing the United States during a presi-
9 dential transition, which—

- 10 (1) shall identify and discuss vulnerabilities re-
11 lated to border security and threats related to ter-
12 rorism, including from weapons of mass destruction;
13 (2) shall identify steps being taken to address the
14 threats and vulnerabilities during a presidential
15 transition; and
16 (3) may include recommendations for actions by
17 components and agencies within the Department of
18 Homeland Security.

19 (b) *FORM.*—The report submitted under subsection (a)
20 shall be prepared in unclassified form, but may contain a
21 classified annex.

Attest:

Clerk.

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1172

AMENDMENT
