

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4409

To provide for reforming and consolidating agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and save money, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2012

Mr. BARROW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To provide for reforming and consolidating agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and save money, 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Government Agency  
5       Reform Act of 2012”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Partially as a result of unnecessary Federal  
9       spending, the United States national debt is over  
10      \$15 trillion.

1           (2) Bureaucratic complexity and redundancy  
2       waste time and money for consumers, businesses,  
3       and taxpayers.

4           (3) In March 2011, the Government Account-  
5       ability Office released a report entitled “Opportuni-  
6       ties to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government  
7       Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Rev-  
8       enue” that identifies areas where greater efficiencies  
9       could be found in Government operations. Some of  
10      the findings include:

11           (A) Seven different Federal agencies have  
12       programs dedicated to meeting the water needs  
13       in the United States-Mexico border region.

14           (B) There are 82 Federal programs dedi-  
15       cated to improving teacher quality.

16           (C) There are 56 programs in 20 different  
17       Federal agencies designed to target financial  
18       literacy.

19           (D) There are 80 Federal programs to  
20       boost transportation opportunities for disadvan-  
21       taged individuals.

22           (E) There are over 20 programs in seven  
23       different Federal agencies working to combat  
24       homelessness.

1           (4) The Department of Commerce’s core busi-  
2           ness and trade functions, the Small Business Ad-  
3           ministration, the Office of the United States Trade  
4           Representative, the Export-Import Bank, the Over-  
5           seas Private Investment Corporation, and the United  
6           States Trade and Development Agency all serve im-  
7           portant, but sometimes overlapping functions for  
8           consumers and businesses in the United States. Con-  
9           solidating these agencies could save \$3 billion and  
10          eliminate over 1,000 duplicative Federal jobs while  
11          improving the service provided to taxpayers and con-  
12          sumers.

13          (5) The Federal Government provides impor-  
14          tant services that can be improved while saving  
15          money by consolidating and reforming Federal agen-  
16          cies.

17 **SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION AUTHORITY.**

18          (a) EFFICIENCY-ENHANCING PLAN DEFINED.—Sec-  
19          tion 902 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

20               (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after  
21               the semicolon;

22               (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and  
23               inserting “; and”; and

24               (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) ‘efficiency-enhancing plan’ means a reorga-  
 2 nization plan that the Director of the Office of Man-  
 3 agement and Budget determines will result in, or is  
 4 likely to result in—

5 “(A) a decrease in the number of agencies;  
 6 and

7 “(B) cost savings in performing the func-  
 8 tions that are the subject of that plan.”.

9 (b) MODERNIZING REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY.—  
 10 Section 905(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amend-  
 11 ed by striking the following: “or renaming an existing ex-  
 12 ecutive department, abolishing or transferring an execu-  
 13 tive department or independent regulatory agency, or all  
 14 the functions thereof, or consolidating two or more execu-  
 15 tive departments or two or more independent regulatory  
 16 agencies, or all the functions thereof”.

17 **SEC. 4. DURATION AND SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 905(b) of title 5, United  
 19 States Code, is amended by striking “if the plan” and all  
 20 that follows and inserting the following: “if the plan is—

21 “(1) transmitted to Congress (in accordance  
 22 with section 903(b)) on or before the date that is 2  
 23 years after the date of enactment of the Government  
 24 Agency Reform Act of 2012; and

25 “(2) an efficiency-enhancing plan.”.

1       (b) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWER.—Section  
2 908(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by strik-  
3 ing “December 31, 1984” and inserting “the date that  
4 is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Government  
5 Agency Reform Act of 2012”.

