

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8009

To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2024

Mr. RASKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, 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 Spending
5 Oversight Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENT SPENDING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 424 of title 5, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) GOVERNMENT SPENDING OVERSIGHT COM-
6 MITTEE.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.— In this subsection:

8 “(A) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
9 meaning given the term in section 551.

10 “(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
11 MITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
12 committees’ means—

13 “(i) the Committees on Appropria-
14 tions of the Senate and the House of Rep-
15 resentatives;

16 “(ii) the Committee on Homeland Se-
17 curity and Governmental Affairs of the
18 Senate;

19 “(iii) the Committee on Oversight and
20 Accountability of the House of Representa-
21 tives; and

22 “(iv) any other relevant congressional
23 committee of jurisdiction.

24 “(C) CHAIRPERSON.—The term ‘Chair-
25 person’ means the Chairperson of the Com-
26 mittee.

1 “(D) COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Committee’
2 means the Government Spending Oversight
3 Committee established under paragraph (2).

4 “(E) COVERED FUNDS.—The term ‘cov-
5 ered funds’ means any funds, including loans,
6 that are made available in any form to any non-
7 Federal entity or individual, under—

8 “(i) the CARES Act (Public Law
9 116–136);

10 “(ii) the Coronavirus Preparedness
11 and Response Supplemental Appropria-
12 tions Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123);

13 “(iii) the Families First Coronavirus
14 Response Act (Public Law 116–127);

15 “(iv) the Paycheck Protection Pro-
16 gram and Health Care Enhancement Act
17 (Public Law 116–139);

18 “(v) division M or N of the Consoli-
19 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public
20 Law 116–260);

21 “(vi) the American Rescue Plan Act
22 of 2021 (Public Law 117–2);

23 “(vii) any loan guaranteed or made by
24 the Small Business Administration, includ-
25 ing any direct loan or guarantee of a trust

1 certificate, under the Small Business Act
2 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), the Small Busi-
3 ness Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C.
4 661 et seq.), or any other provision of law;

5 “(viii) unemployment compensation
6 (as defined in section 85 of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986);

8 “(ix) the Infrastructure Investment
9 and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58);

10 “(x) the Inflation Reduction Act
11 (Public Law 117–169);

12 “(xi) the Honoring our PACT Act of
13 2022 (Public Law 117–168); or

14 “(xii) the Act entitled ‘Making appro-
15 priations for Legislative Branch for the fis-
16 cal year ending September 30, 2022, and
17 for other purposes’, enacted December 22,
18 2023 (commonly referred to as the CHIPS
19 and Science Act of 2022; Public Law 117–
20 167).

21 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
22 within the Council the Government Spending Over-
23 sight Committee to promote transparency and con-
24 duct and support oversight of covered funds to—

1 “(A) prevent and detect fraud, waste,
2 abuse, and mismanagement; and

3 “(B) mitigate major risks that cut across
4 program and agency boundaries.

5 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
6 Committee—

7 “(A) shall be selected by the Chairperson
8 of the Council from among Inspectors General
9 appointed by the President and confirmed by
10 the Senate; and

11 “(B) should have with experience man-
12 aging oversight of large organizations and ex-
13 penditures.

14 “(4) MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.—

15 “(A) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the
16 Committee shall include—

17 “(i) the Chairperson;

18 “(ii) the Inspector General of the De-
19 partment of Labor;

20 “(iii) the Inspector General of the De-
21 partment of Health and Human Services;

22 “(iv) the Inspector General of the
23 Small Business Administration;

24 “(v) the Inspector General of the De-
25 partment of the Treasury;

1 “(vi) the Inspector General of the De-
2 partment of Transportation;

3 “(vii) the Treasury Inspector General
4 for Tax Administration;

5 “(viii) the Inspector General of the
6 Department of Veterans Affairs;

7 “(ix) the Inspector General of the De-
8 partment of Commerce;

9 “(x) the Inspector General of the De-
10 partment of Justice;

11 “(xi) the Inspector General of the De-
12 partment of Defense;

13 “(xii) the Inspector General of the
14 Department of Education;

15 “(xiii) the Inspector General of the
16 Department of Homeland Security; and

17 “(xiv) any Inspector General, as the
18 Chairperson determines appropriate, of a
19 designated Federal entity that expends or
20 obligates covered funds.

21 “(B) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL COM-
22 PENSATION.—Members of the Committee may
23 not receive additional compensation for services
24 performed as members of the Committee.

25 “(5) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be an Ex-
2 ecutive Director of the Committee.

3 “(B) APPOINTMENT; QUALIFICATIONS.—
4 The Executive Director of the Committee
5 shall—

6 “(i) be appointed by the Chairperson,
7 in consultation with the majority leader of
8 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives, the minority leader of the
10 Senate, and the minority leader of the
11 House of Representatives;

12 “(ii) have demonstrated ability in ac-
13 counting, auditing, financial analysis, law,
14 management analysis, public administra-
15 tion, or investigations;

16 “(iii) have experience managing over-
17 sight of large organizations and expendi-
18 tures; and

19 “(iv) be a full-time employee of the
20 Committee.

21 “(C) DUTIES.—The Executive Director of
22 the Committee shall—

23 “(i) report directly to the Chair-
24 person;

1 “(ii) appoint staff of the Committee,
2 subject to the approval of the Chairperson;

3 “(iii) supervise and coordinate the
4 functions and staff of the Committee; and

5 “(iv) perform any other duties as-
6 signed to the Executive Director by the
7 Committee.

8 “(6) DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

9 “(A) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.—In addition
10 to the duties of the Committee described under
11 paragraph (2), the Committee, in coordination
12 with the Inspector General involved, may—

13 “(i) provide support to, and collabo-
14 rate with, such Inspector General in con-
15 ducting investigations, audits, and reviews
16 relating to covered funds, including
17 through—

18 “(I) data analytics;

19 “(II) the sharing of data, tools,
20 and services;

21 “(III) the development and en-
22 hancement of data practices, analysis,
23 and visualization; and

1 “(IV) any other appropriate
2 means as determined by the Com-
3 mittee;

4 “(ii) provide analytical products to
5 agencies, in coordination with the Inspec-
6 tor General involved, to promote program
7 integrity, prevent improper payments, and
8 facilitate verification efforts to ensure
9 proper expenditure and utilization of cov-
10 ered funds;

11 “(iii) review the economy, efficiency,
12 and effectiveness in the administration of,
13 and the detection of fraud, waste, abuse,
14 and mismanagement in, programs and op-
15 erations using covered funds;

16 “(iv) review whether there are appro-
17 priate mechanisms for interagency collabo-
18 ration relating to the oversight of covered
19 funds, including coordinating and collabo-
20 rating to the extent practicable with State
21 and local government entities; and

22 “(v) expeditiously report to the Attor-
23 ney General any instance in which the
24 Committee has reasonable grounds to be-

1 believe there has been a violation of Federal
2 criminal law.

3 “(B) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Com-
4 mittee may provide investigative support to any
5 prosecutorial and enforcement authority to pro-
6 tect program integrity and prevent, detect, and
7 prosecute fraud of covered funds.

8 “(C) REPORTING.—

9 “(i) ALERTS.—The Committee shall
10 submit to the President and Congress, in-
11 cluding the appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees, management alerts on potential
13 management, risk, and funding problems
14 that require immediate attention.

15 “(ii) REPORTS AND UPDATES.—The
16 Committee shall submit to Congress such
17 reports or provide such periodic updates on
18 the work of the Committee as the Com-
19 mittee considers appropriate on the use of
20 covered funds.

21 “(iii) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—The
22 Committee shall submit biennial reports
23 to the President and Congress, including
24 the appropriate congressional committees,
25 and may submit additional reports as ap-

1 appropriate to Congress, that summarize the
2 findings of the Committee and include rec-
3 ommendations for additional funds that
4 should be included under the definition of
5 covered funds for the purposes of this sub-
6 section.

7 “(iv) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—All re-
8 ports submitted under this subparagraph
9 shall be made publicly available and posted
10 on the website established under paragraph
11 (16).

12 “(v) REDACTIONS.—Any portion of a
13 report submitted under this paragraph
14 may be redacted when made publicly avail-
15 able, if that portion would disclose infor-
16 mation that is not subject to disclosure
17 under sections 552 and 552a, or is other-
18 wise prohibited from disclosure by law.

19 “(D) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee
21 shall make recommendations to the heads
22 of agencies on measures to prevent or ad-
23 dress fraud, waste, abuse and mismanage-
24 ment of covered funds, and to mitigate

1 risks that cut across programs and agency
2 boundaries, relating to covered funds.

3 “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 30
4 days after receipt of a recommendation
5 under clause (i), the head of an agency
6 shall submit a report to the President and
7 the appropriate congressional committees
8 on—

9 “(I) whether the head of the
10 agency agrees or disagrees with the
11 recommendations; and

12 “(II) any actions the head of the
13 agency will take to implement the rec-
14 ommendations.

15 “(E) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN GAO–
16 IG ACT REPORT.—The head of each agency
17 shall include in each annual budget justification
18 required under section 2(b) of the GAO–IG Act
19 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 115–414) a
20 report listing each action the head of an agency
21 took to implement a recommendation under
22 subparagraph (D)(ii)(II) in 1-year period pre-
23 ceding the date on which the annual budget jus-
24 tification is submitted.

25 “(7) AUTHORITIES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
2 duties and functions under this subsection with
3 respect to conducting or supporting the over-
4 sight of covered funds, the Committee shall—

5 “(i) comply with standards established
6 by the Comptroller General of the United
7 States for audits of Federal establish-
8 ments, organizations, programs, activities,
9 and functions;

10 “(ii) establish guidelines for deter-
11 mining when it shall be appropriate to use
12 non-Federal auditors;

13 “(iii) take appropriate steps to ensure
14 that any work performed by non-Federal
15 auditors complies with the standards estab-
16 lished by the Comptroller General as de-
17 scribed in clause (i); and

18 “(iv) in coordination with the Inspec-
19 tor General involved, have the authorities
20 provided under and be subject to para-
21 graphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a)
22 and subsections (h), (j), and (k) of section
23 406, subject to the limitations under sub-
24 paragraph (B).

1 “(B) LIMITATION ON SUBPOENA AUTHOR-
2 ITY.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to
4 exercising subpoena authority under sec-
5 tion 406(a)(4), the following limitations
6 shall apply to the Committee:

7 “(I) Any subpoena issued under
8 this subsection shall be signed by the
9 Chairperson, and this power is non-
10 delegable.

11 “(II) On a quarterly basis, the
12 Committee shall notify the Committee
13 on Homeland Security and Govern-
14 mental Affairs of the Senate and the
15 Committee on Oversight and Account-
16 ability of the House of Representa-
17 tives of any subpoenas issued during
18 the preceding quarter.

19 “(III) The authority to issue a
20 subpoena under this subsection shall
21 terminate on the date that is 5 years
22 after the date of enactment of this
23 subsection.

24 “(ii) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—Any sub-
25 poena issued under this subsection prior to

1 the date in clause (i)(III) shall remain
2 valid and enforceable after such date.

3 “(C) APPLICATION OF SECTIONS 552 AND
4 552A.—

5 “(i) ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED CIVIL
6 OR CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVI-
7 TIES UNDER SECTION 552A.—An activity
8 carried out by the Committee shall be con-
9 sidered a civil or criminal law enforcement
10 activity for the purposes of section
11 552a(b)(7).

12 “(ii) PRINCIPLE FUNCTION OF COM-
13 MITTEE.—The Committee shall be consid-
14 ered to be a component which performs as
15 its principal function an activity pertaining
16 to the enforcement of criminal laws for the
17 purposes of sections 552 and 552a.

18 “(iii) RECORDS OF THE COM-
19 MITTEE.—Thee records of the Committee
20 may be considered as constituting inves-
21 tigatory material compiled for law enforce-
22 ment purposes for the purposes of sections
23 552 and 552a.

24 “(8) REFUSAL OF INFORMATION OR ASSIST-
25 ANCE.—Whenever information or assistance re-

1 requested by the Committee or an Inspector General
2 is unreasonably refused or not provided by an indi-
3 vidual or entity, the Committee shall immediately re-
4 port the circumstances to the appropriate congres-
5 sional committees.

6 “(9) USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RE-
7 SOURCES.—The Committee shall leverage the infor-
8 mation technology resources of the Council, such as
9 oversight.gov and those developed by the Pandemic
10 Response Accountability Committee established
11 under section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law
12 116–136; 135 Stat. 533), to carry out the duties of
13 the Committee.

14 “(10) CONTRACTS.—The Committee may enter
15 into contracts to enable the Committee to discharge
16 its duties, including contracts and other arrange-
17 ments for audits, studies, analyses, and other serv-
18 ices with public agencies and with private persons,
19 and make such payments as may be necessary to
20 carry out the duties of the Committee.

21 “(11) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may
22 establish subcommittees to facilitate the ability of
23 the Committee to discharge its duties.

1 “(12) TRANSFER OF FUNDS, ASSETS, AND OB-
2 LIGATIONS.—The Committee may transfer funds ap-
3 propriated to the Committee—

4 “(A) for expenses to support administra-
5 tive support services and audits, reviews, or
6 other activities related to oversight by the Com-
7 mittee of covered funds to any Office of the In-
8 specter General or the General Services Admin-
9 istration; and

10 “(B) to reimburse the Council for the use
11 of the resources described under paragraph
12 (10).

13 “(13) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—

14 “(A) GENERAL HIRING AUTHORITY.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sub-
16 paragraph (B), the Committee may exer-
17 cise the authorities of subsections (b)
18 through (i) of section 3161 (without regard
19 to subsection (a) of that section) to meet
20 temporary or urgent needs of the Com-
21 mittee under this subsection, as certified
22 by the Chairperson to the appropriate con-
23 gressional committees that such temporary
24 or urgent needs exist, as if the Committee
25 were a temporary organization.

1 “(ii) HEAD OF ORGANIZATION.—For
2 purposes of exercising the authorities de-
3 scribed in subparagraph (A), the term
4 ‘Chairperson’ shall be substituted for the
5 term ‘head of a temporary organization’.

6 “(iii) CONSULTATION.—In exercising
7 the authorities described in subparagraph
8 (A), the Chairperson shall consult with
9 members of the Committee.

10 “(iv) ADDITIONAL DETAILEES.—In
11 addition to the authority provided by sec-
12 tion 3161(c), upon the request of an In-
13 spector General, the Committee may detail,
14 on a nonreimbursable basis, any personnel
15 of the Committee to that Inspector General
16 to assist in carrying out any audit, review,
17 or investigation pertaining to the oversight
18 of covered funds.

19 “(v) LIMITATIONS.—In exercising the
20 employment authorities under section
21 3161(b), as provided under subparagraph
22 (A) of this paragraph section 3161(b)(2)
23 (relating to periods of appointments) shall
24 not apply.

1 “(B) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—A person
2 employed by the Committee shall acquire com-
3 petitive status and may be appointed to any po-
4 sition in the competitive service for which the
5 employee possesses the required qualifications
6 upon the completion of 2 years of continuous
7 service as an employee pursuant to this sub-
8 section.

9 “(C) ANNUITANTS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee
11 may employ annuitants covered by section
12 9902(g) for purposes of the oversight of
13 covered funds.

14 “(ii) TREATMENT OF ANNUITANTS.—
15 The employment of annuitants under this
16 paragraph shall be subject to the provi-
17 sions of section 9902(g), as if the Com-
18 mittee was the Department of Defense.

19 “(14) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

20 “(A) REQUESTS.—Upon request of the
21 Committee for information or assistance from
22 the head of any agency or other entity of the
23 Federal Government pursuant to the authorities
24 provided under section 406(a)(1), the head of
25 such agency or entity shall, insofar as is prac-

1 ticable and not in contravention of any other
2 Federal law, furnish such information or assist-
3 ance to the Committee, or an authorized des-
4 ignee thereof, including an Inspector General
5 designated by the Chairperson.

6 “(B) INSPECTORS GENERAL.—Any Inspec-
7 tor General responsible for conducting oversight
8 related to any covered funds shall, consistent
9 with the duties, responsibilities, policies, and
10 procedures of the Inspector General, provide in-
11 formation requested by the Committee or an In-
12 spector General on the Committee relating to
13 the responsibilities of the Committee.

14 “(15) WEBSITE.—Not later than 30 days after
15 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Com-
16 mittee shall, to foster greater accountability and
17 transparency in the use of covered funds, establish
18 and maintain a user-friendly, public-facing website
19 that—

20 “(A) has a uniform resource locator that is
21 descriptive and memorable; and

22 “(B) shall serve as a portal or gateway to
23 key information relating to the oversight of cov-
24 ered funds and provide connections to other
25 Government websites with related information.

1 “(16) COORDINATION.—The Committee shall
2 coordinate its oversight activities with respect to cov-
3 ered funds with the Comptroller General of the
4 United States and State auditors as applicable.

5 “(17) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
6 this subsection may be construed to—

7 “(A) affect any independent authority of
8 an Inspector General to determine whether to
9 conduct an audit or investigation of covered
10 funds separate from the authority provided to
11 the Committee under this subsection; or

12 “(B) authorize the Council or any Inspec-
13 tor General to transfer funds to the Committee
14 for the purpose of supporting the activities of
15 the Committee.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
17 ments made by this section, shall take effect on September
18 30, 2025.

19 **SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM THE PANDEMIC RE-**
20 **SPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE TO**
21 **THE GOVERNMENT SPENDING OVERSIGHT**
22 **COMMITTEE.**

23 (a) TRANSFER.—Not later than 30 days before the
24 effective date described under section 2(b), the assets held
25 by or available in connection with the Pandemic Response

1 Accountability Committee established under 15010 of the
2 CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 135 Stat. 540) shall
3 be transferred to the Government Spending Oversight
4 Committee.

5 (b) ADDITIONAL MATTERS RELATED TO TRANSFER
6 OF CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—

7 (1) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Any contract or
8 agreement of the Pandemic Response Accountability
9 Committee that is in effect on the date on which the
10 contract or agreement is transferred pursuant to
11 paragraph (1) (or that becomes effective after such
12 date pursuant to their terms as in effect on such
13 date) shall continue in effect according to their
14 terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set
15 aside, or revoked in accordance with the law by the
16 Government Spending Oversight Committee, any au-
17 thorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or
18 operation of law.

19 (2) REFERENCES.—After the date on which a
20 contract or agreement is transferred pursuant to
21 paragraph (1), any reference in a contract or agree-
22 ment pertaining to the Pandemic Response Account-
23 ability Committee is deemed to refer to the Govern-
24 ment Spending Oversight Committee, and any ref-
25 erence to the head of the Pandemic Response Ac-

1 countability Committee is deemed to refer to the
2 head of the Government Spending Oversight Com-
3 mittee.

4 (c) ASSETS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “as-
5 sets” includes contracts, agreements, facilities, property,
6 data, records, obligated appropriations, unobligated or un-
7 expended balances of appropriations, any information
8 technology resources developed by the Pandemic Response
9 Accountability Committee established under section 15010
10 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 135 Stat. 533),
11 and other funds or resources (other than personnel).

○