

ROD does not qualify as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

In addition, the ROD substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. Although the Strategy adopted by the ROD does not require an entity to implement barred owl management and actions are limited to the lands of willing landowners and land managers, we have previously concluded that rules establishing requirements for voluntary programs may still substantially affect non-agency parties that choose to participate.

In B-334146, we examined U.S. Department of Agriculture actions establishing four new financial assistance programs. The actions prescribed each program's eligibility requirements, application requirements, calculation and distribution of funds, and, in some cases, reporting requirements and limitations on how funds could be used. Although participation in the programs was voluntary, we concluded that the actions substantially affected non-agency parties because they directly determined whether interested entities would receive funding under the programs, and, for certain programs, imposed additional implementation and reporting requirements on program participants.

The ROD's adoption of the Barred Owl Management Strategy establishes a new voluntary program for interested governmental and non-governmental entities. Like the eligibility and application requirements included in the actions at issue in B-334146, the Strategy prescribes the information that must be submitted by non-agency parties interested in becoming implementers and removal specialists, as well as qualifications for persons participating in removal activities. And just as some of the actions in B-334146 imposed additional requirements on program participants, the Strategy includes requirements for individuals and entities designated as implementers by FWS. For example, the Strategy prescribes detailed protocols for removal activities, as well as reporting requirements. In short, the ROD and adopted Strategy substantially affect non-agency parties by describing who may implement barred owl removal activities, the information those persons or entities must submit to FWS (both to be designated as implementers or removal specialists and as part of subsequent reporting requirements), and the protocols those persons or entities must follow when conducting removal activities.

CONCLUSION

The Barred Owl ROD meets the APA definition of a rule, and no exception applies. Therefore, the ROD is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA BRADLEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and wish a very happy 90th birthday to Paula Bradley, who serves as a senior field representative in my Providence office. Paula has served in the Federal workforce for 30 distinguished years, first for former Congressman Patrick Kennedy before joining my team in 2011.

Paula is a fixture in senior communities all across the State of Rhode Island. She is a walking encyclopedia of the State and Federal programs available to help our seniors. And she is a tireless advocate when redtape gets in the way of a senior accessing their hard-earned benefits. From restoring

interrupted Medicare coverage, to reinstating Social Security benefits, to facilitating a ride or a Meals on Wheels delivery, Paula consistently gets results when called into action.

Paula is beloved by the seniors she assists and the senior center staffs she interacts with on a daily basis. She is an excellent listener, quick to remember faces and names, and is always checking back in with her seniors to ensure their problems remain resolved. She is loved and admired by my staff for the care with which she treats her seniors and the hopeful spirit she embodies.

A proud Portsmouth resident, Paula has generously devoted herself to volunteer service in her local community on Aquidneck Island. Though Paula has never sought publicity for her hard work, she recently received a 2024 Vision Award from the East Bay Community Action Program for decades of service in their Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Kim Wetherald, East Bay Community Action Program's director of volunteer services, said it best: "Paula makes things happen for people."

I know how important Rhode Island's senior community is to Paula, but nothing is more important to her than her beloved husband Dale; her children Mary-Ellen, Bill, Peter, and Paul; her grandchildren Jennifer, John, Stephanie, James, Andrew, Brad, and Veronica; and her many great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Paula, for your dedication to the people of Rhode Island. My team, Ocean State seniors, and our State as a whole are better off because of your decades of exceptional service. I wish you all the best as you celebrate with your cherished family and friends. Happy birthday, my friend.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. McLaughlin, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: H.R. 4. An act to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4. An act to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974; referred jointly to the Committee on Appropriations; the Budget pursuant to the order of 1/30/1975 as amended by the order of 4/1/1986.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1271. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1272. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1273. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Development Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Publication Method of Lists of States With and Without State Meat or Poultry Inspection Programs" (RIN0583-AE03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1274. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "School Bus Operations, 49 CFR Part 605" (RIN2132-AB53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1275. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revising the Duration of Design Certifications" (RIN3150-AL26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1276. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transportation for Elderly and Handicapped Persons" (RIN2132-AB54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1277. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transit Asset Management" (RIN2132-AB56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1278. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Charter Service" (RIN2132-AB38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1279. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of National Environmental Policy Act Regulations" (RIN2132-AB51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1280. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled "Organizations, Functions, and Procedures" (RIN2132-AB52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1281. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1282. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the situation in Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1283. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B); Extension of Compliance Dates" (RIN3170-AB40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1284. A communication from the Acting Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2024 Annual Report on Preservation and Promotion of Minority-Owned National Banks and Federal Savings Associations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1285. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2256. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-37).

By Mr. MULLIN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2257. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-38).

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 222. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SUL-

LIVAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2235. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2236. A bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2237. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORENO):

S. 2238. A bill to prevent the theft of catalytic converters and other precious metal car parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2239. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2240. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand authorities for intergovernmental support agreements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 2241. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2242. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to submit an action plan to enhance counternarcotics collaboration, coordination, and cooperation with the Government of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2243. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to assess certain fees on shipping and other vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2244. A bill to require immediate changes to Medicaid relating to alien eligibility and payments to Medicaid expansion States that furnish health care to certain aliens; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2245. A bill to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2246. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit certain offices of the Small

Business Administration from undertaking a reduction in force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 2247. A bill to enhance local capacity and expand local control over the disaster response, recovery, and preparedness process, to guarantee stable Federal funding streams for disaster-impacted communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2248. A bill to reauthorize titles II and V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2249. A bill to expand eligibility for special overtime pay to U.S. Border Patrol agents classified above grade GS-12; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2250. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 2251. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prevent the use of funds under such Act to teach or advance concepts related to gender ideology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2252. A bill to require United States foreign assistance commodities to be made available for their intended purposes before they expire; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2253. A bill to increase consumer protection with respect to negative options in all media, including on the internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2254. A bill to codify the Federal Trade Commission's negative option rule; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2255. A bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2256. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. 2257. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2258. A bill to prohibit the acquisition and ownership of agricultural land and residential real property by certain foreign entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.