112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 10

[Report No. 112–]

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BERG, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Boustany, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Gowdy, Mr. Guthrie, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LEE of New York, Mrs. Lummis, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. McCarthy of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Stutzman, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WEST, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WITTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

NOVEMBER --, 2011 Additional Cosponsors:

November --, 2011

Reported from the Committee on Rules with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 20, 2011]

A BILL

To amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the "Regulations From the
5 Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2011".

6 SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

7 The purpose of this Act is to increase accountability 8 for and transparency in the federal regulatory process. Sec-9 tion 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants 10 all legislative powers to Congress. Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing 11 to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability 12 for the content of the laws it passes. By requiring a vote 13 in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully 14 15 drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable 16 17 to the American people for the laws imposed upon them. 18 SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING. 19 Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended

20 to read as follows:

21 "CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW 22 OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

"Sec.

"801. Congressional review.

"802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.

"803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.

"804. Definitions.

"805. Judicial review.

"806. Exemption for monetary policy. "807. Effective date of certain rules.

1 "§801. Congressional review

2 "(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal
3 agency promulgating such rule shall submit to each House
4 of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report
5 containing—

 $6 \qquad \qquad "(i) \ a \ copy \ of \ the \ rule;$

7 "(ii) a concise general statement relating to the
8 rule;

9 "(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or
10 nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classi11 fication specifically addressing each criteria for a
12 major rule contained within sections 804(2)(A),
13 804(2)(B), and 804(2)(C);

14 "(iv) a list of any other related regulatory ac-15 tions intended to implement the same statutory provi-16 sion or regulatory objective as well as the individual 17 and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and 18 "(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

"(B) On the date of the submission of the report under
subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the
rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make
available to each House of Congress—

23 "(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis
24 of the rule, if any;

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1	"(ii) the agency's actions pursuant to sections
2	603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of this title;
3	"(iii) the agency's actions pursuant to sections
4	202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates
5	Reform Act of 1995; and
6	"(iv) any other relevant information or require-
7	ments under any other Act and any relevant Execu-
8	tive orders.
9	"(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under sub-
10	paragraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report
11	to the chairman and ranking member of each standing com-
12	mittee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Rep-
13	resentatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the pro-
14	vision of law under which the rule is issued.
15	"(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a re-
16	port on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction
17	by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or pub-
18	lication date as provided in section 802(b)(2). The report
19	of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of
20	the agency's compliance with procedural steps required by
21	paragraph(1)(B).
22	"(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comp-
23	troller General by providing information relevant to the

24 Comptroller General's report under subparagraph (A).

1 "(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under 2 paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint 3 resolution of approval described in section 802 or as pro-4 vided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolu-5 tion of approval described in section 802, whichever is later. 6 "(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph 7 8 (1).

9 "(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a 10 major rule is not enacted within the period provided in sub-11 section (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating 12 to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter 13 in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives 14 or the Senate.

15 "(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the
16 Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described
17 under section 802.

18 "(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) 19 is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or 20 legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on 21 which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is re-22 ceived by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress 23 is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Con-24 gress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be

deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take ef fect.

3 "(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
4 section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may
5 take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President
6 makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits
7 written notice of such determination to the Congress.

8 "(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made
9 by the President by Executive order that the major rule
10 should take effect because such rule is—

11 "(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to
12 health or safety or other emergency;

13 "(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal
14 laws;

15 "(C) necessary for national security; or

16 "(D) issued pursuant to any statute imple17 menting an international trade agreement.

18 "(3) An exercise by the President of the authority
19 under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures
20 under section 802.

21 "(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review oth22 erwise provided under this chapter, in the case of any rule
23 for which a report was submitted in accordance with sub24 section (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date
25 occurring—

1	"(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days,
2	OT
3	"(B) in the case of the House of Representatives,
4	60 legislative days,
5	before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session
6	of Congress through the date on which the same or suc-
7	ceeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 802
8	and 803 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session
9	of Congress.
10	"(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes
11	of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph
12	(1) shall be treated as though—
13	"(i) such rule were published in the Federal Reg-
14	ister on—
15	"(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th ses-
16	sion day, or
17	"(II) in the case of the House of Representa-
18	tives, the 15th legislative day,
19	after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes;
20	and
21	"(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to
22	Congress under subsection $(a)(1)$ on such date.
23	``(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
24	affect the requirement under subsection $(a)(1)$ that a report
25	shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

"(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take
 effect as otherwise provided by law (including other sub sections of this section).

4 "§802. Congressional approval procedure for major 5 rules

6 "(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint res7 olution' means only a joint resolution addressing a report
8 classifying a rule as major pursuant to section
9 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

10 "(A) bears no preamble;

"(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled
as appropriate): 'Approving the rule submitted by
relating to _____.';

"(C) includes after its resolving clause only the
following (with blanks filled as appropriate): 'That
Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.'; and

18 "(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

19 "(2) After a House of Congress receives a report
20 classifying a rule as major pursuant to section
21 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his
22 or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if ap23 propriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—
24 "(A) in the case of the House of Representatives,
25 within three legislative days; and

"(B) in the case of the Senate, within three ses sion days.

3 "(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1)
4 shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of pro5 ceeding.

6 "(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall
7 be referred in each House of Congress to the committees hav8 ing jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the
9 rule is issued.

10 "(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been 11 12 referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall 13 be automatically discharged from further consideration of 14 15 the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before 16 the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is re-17 ported by the committee or committees to which it was re-18 ferred, or after such committee or committees have been dis-19 charged from further consideration of the resolution. 20

21 "(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or commit22 tees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported,
23 or when a committee or committees are discharged (under
24 subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolu25 tion described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter

in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect 1 has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consid-2 3 eration of the joint resolution, and all points of order 4 against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject 5 to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion 6 7 to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion 8 to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or 9 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed 10 to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the 11 Senate until disposed of. 12

13 "(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection there-14 15 with, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those oppos-16 ing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate 17 18 is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a mo-19 tion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolu-20 21 tion is not in order.

22 "(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclu-23 sion of the debate on a joint resolution described in sub-24 section (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of 25 the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the

Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall
 occur.

3 "(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating
4 to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure
5 relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a)
6 shall be decided without debate.

7 "(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has 8 9 been referred has not reported it to the House at the end 10 of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint 11 12 resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate cal-13 endar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize 14 15 a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to 16 call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration 17 in the House without intervention of any point of order. 18 When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as 19 20 read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and 21 controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the pre-22 vious question shall be considered as ordered to its passage 23 without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to re-24 consider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of 25 the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thurs-

day on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under
 this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

3 "(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described
4 in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint
5 resolution having the same text, then—

6 "(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall
7 not be referred to a committee; and

8 "(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall 9 be the same as if no joint resolution had been received 10 from the other House until the vote on passage, when 11 the joint resolution received from the other House 12 shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving 13 House.

14 "(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of
15 Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Sen16 ate is a revenue measure.

"(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period
described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken
on that day.

21 "(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Con22 gress—

23 "(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
24 the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively,
25 and as such is deemed to be part of the rules of each

House, respectively, but applicable only with respect
 to the procedure to be followed in that House in the
 case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a)
 and superseding other rules only where explicitly so;
 and

6 "(2) with full recognition of the Constitutional 7 right of either House to change the rules (so far as 8 they relate to the procedure of that House) at any 9 time, in the same manner and to the same extent as 10 in the case of any other rule of that House.

11 "§803. Congressional disapproval procedure for 12 nonmajor rules

"(a) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint resolu-13 tion' means only a joint resolution introduced in the period 14 beginning on the date on which the report referred to in 15 section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 16 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is 17 adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Con-18 gress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as 19 20 follows: 'That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule sub-21 mitted by the ____ relating to ____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.' (The blank spaces being appro-22 23 priately filled in).

"(b)(1) A joint resolution described in subsection (a)
 shall be referred to the committees in each House of Con gress with jurisdiction.

4 "(2) For purposes of this section, the term submission
5 or publication date means the later of the date on which—
6 "(A) the Congress receives the report submitted
7 under section 801(a)(1); or

8 "(B) the nonmajor rule is published in the Fed9 eral Register, if so published.

10 "(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred 11 a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolu-12 tion) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduc-13 tion of the joint resolution, such committee may be dis-14 15 charged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the 16 17 Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the cal-18 endar.

19 "(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which 20 a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a com-21 mittee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further con-22 sideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), 23 it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous 24 motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion 25 to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and

all points of order against the joint resolution (and against 1 2 consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The mo-3 tion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to post-4 pone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other 5 business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If 6 7 a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolu-8 tion is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfin-9 ished business of the Senate until disposed of.

10 "(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection there-11 12 with, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which 13 shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit de-14 bate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or 15 a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consid-16 eration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint 17 18 resolution is not in order.

"(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of
the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the
Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall
occur.

"(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating
 to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure
 relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a)
 shall be decided without debate.

5 "(e) In the Senate the procedure specified in subsection
6 (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint
7 resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

8 "(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days
9 beginning with the applicable submission or publica10 tion date, or

"(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was
submitted during the period referred to in section
801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days
beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding
session of Congress first convenes.

"(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House
receives from the other House a joint resolution described
in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:
"(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall
not be referred to a committee.

22 "(2) With respect to a joint resolution described
23 in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint reso24 lution—

1	"(A) the procedure in that House shall be
2	the same as if no joint resolution had been re-
3	ceived from the other House; but
4	``(B) the vote on final passage shall be on
5	the joint resolution of the other House.
6	"§804. Definitions
7	"For purposes of this chapter—
8	"(1) The term 'Federal agency' means any agen-
9	cy as that term is defined in section 551(1).
10	"(2) The term 'major rule' means any rule, in-
11	cluding an interim final rule, that the Administrator
12	of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of
13	the Office of Management and Budget finds has re-
14	sulted in or is likely to result in—
15	"(A) an annual effect on the economy of
16	\$100,000,000 or more;
17	"(B) a major increase in costs or prices for
18	consumers, individual industries, Federal, State,
19	or local government agencies, or geographic re-
20	gions; or
21	"(C) significant adverse effects on competi-
22	tion, employment, investment, productivity, in-
23	novation, or on the ability of United States-
24	based enterprises to compete with foreign-based
25	enterprises in domestic and export markets.

1	"(3) The term 'nonmajor rule' means any rule
2	that is not a major rule.
3	"(4) The term 'rule' has the meaning given such
4	term in section 551, except that such term does not
5	include—
6	"(A) any rule of particular applicability,
7	including a rule that approves or prescribes for
8	the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allow-
9	ances therefore, corporate or financial structures,
10	reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof,
11	or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on
12	any of the foregoing;
13	``(B) any rule relating to agency manage-
14	ment or personnel; or
15	(C) any rule of agency organization, pro-
16	cedure, or practice that does not substantially af-
17	fect the rights or obligations of non-agency par-
18	ties.
19	"§805. Judicial review
20	"(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission
21	under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.
22	"(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may de-
23	termine whether a Federal agency has completed the nec-
24	essary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take
25	effect.

"(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval 1 2 under section 802 shall not be interpreted to serve as a 3 grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress 4 for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any 5 alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record 6 7 before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a 8 rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the 9 rule is in effect.

10 "§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

"Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the
Federal Open Market Committee.

15 "§807. Effective date of certain rules

16 "Notwithstanding section 801—

"(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens,
closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to
hunting, fishing, or camping; or

21 "(2) any rule other than a major rule which an
22 agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the
23 finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in
24 the rule issued) that notice and public procedure

- 1 thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to
- 2 the public interest,
- 3 shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promul-
- 4 gating the rule determines.".