



Regulatory Accountability Act

Summary:

The Regulatory Accountability Act (RAA) would modernize the 70-year old Administrative Procedure Act, the law that requires federal agencies to listen to the public when they make new rules. The RAA would require agencies to be more open and accountable to the public when they propose “high-impact” rules that will have a big effect on businesses, states, and local communities.

Why the RAA is Needed:

High-impact regulations issued in recent years – such as rules on healthcare, the Internet, overtime pay, energy use, and the definition of an “employee” – have major ripple effects through society. These rules have had profound, often adverse impacts on key sectors of the economy. Yet agencies ignore or downplay adverse public comments, basing rules on flawed information. Common sense tells us that agencies need to be extra careful and do more to prove that a high-impact rule is the best policy choice.

Current Bill Status:

- Sponsored by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA6), **H.R. 5, the Regulatory Accountability Act**, passed the House with bipartisan support on January 12, 2017, by a vote count of 238 – 183.
- On April 26, 2017, Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) introduced **S. 951, the Regulatory Accountability Act**, in the Senate.

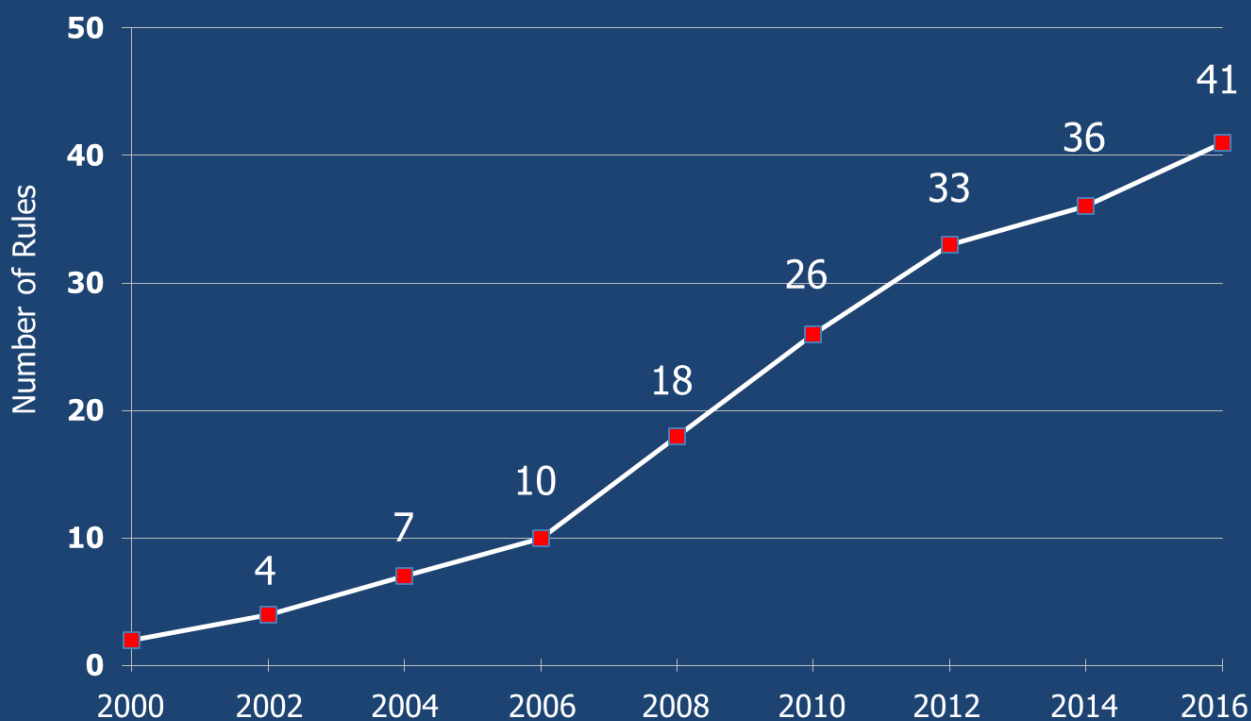
“This bill will streamline and bring transparency to the regulatory process, ensuring that our farmers, ranchers and small businesses are not regulated out of business. Increasing transparency and accountability will give those who will actually feel the impact of proposed regulations, rather than Washington bureaucrats, a larger voice in the process.”

- **Co-Sponsor Rep. Colin Peterson (D-MN7)**

What's in the Bill:

- Allows for earlier public participation in shaping the most costly regulations;
- Requires agencies to choose the lowest cost option that achieves the goal or demonstrate that a more costly option is necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare;
- Allows for on-the-record administrative hearings for high-impact regulations so that interested parties can challenge agency assumptions and the reliance on poor quality data; and
- Places restrictions on agencies' use of interim final regulations.

Cumulative Number of Billion Dollar Regs (2000-2016)



U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs Division

To learn more, visit the division webpage at www.uschamber.com/etra.