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H.R. 2226 — Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act (Rep. Barr, R-KY)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

March 6, 2018, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2226](#) would deem that a mortgage meeting certain requirements that is originated by and continuously retained on the portfolio of a financial institution that has less than \$10 billion in assets shall be considered a Qualified Mortgage (QM).

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting “H.R. 2226 would increase direct spending by \$1 million in 2019 for the agency [CFPB] to issue rules to implement the changes required under the bill.”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2226 would deem that a mortgage meeting certain requirements that is originated by and continuously retained on the portfolio of a financial institution that has less than \$10 billion in assets shall be considered a Qualified Mortgage (QM). The requirements for such a mortgage include that it can not have negative amortization, interest-only terms, and the lender must document employment, income, and credit history.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2226 was introduced on April 28, 2017, and referred to the Financial Services Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on January 18, 2018, by a 55 – 0 vote

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: (According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.)”

H.R. 4725 — Community Bank Reporting Relief Act (Rep. Hultgren, R-IL)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

March 6, 2018, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4725](#) would provide that financial institutions with less than \$5 billion in assets would be required to file Call Reports twice per year (instead of four times per year).

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting “H.R. 4725 could impose costs on the FDIC, the NCUA, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the Federal Reserve. However, CBO estimates that the cost to complete the regulations would not be significant. Administrative costs incurred by the FDIC, the NCUA, and the OCC are recorded in the budget as increases in direct spending, but those agencies are authorized to collect premiums and fees from insured depository institutions to cover administrative expenses. Thus, CBO expects that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible. Administrative costs to the Federal Reserve are reflected in the federal budget as a reduction in remittances to the Treasury (which are recorded in the budget as revenues).”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Under current law, banks must file Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (also called “Call Reports”) with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) four times per year. According to a report from the [Treasury](#), “Currently, the bank Call Report form is over 80 pages and contains a substantial amount of data fields which are not applicable to community banks and their business model.”

H.R. 4725 would provide that financial institutions with less than \$5 billion in assets would be required to file Call Reports twice per year.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4725 was introduced on December 21, 2017, and referred to the Financial Services Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on January 18, 2018, by a 55 – 0 vote

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes. Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into [sic] Execution

the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 4768 — National Strategy for Combating the Financing of Transnational Criminal Organizations Act (Rep. Kustoff, R-TN)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

March 6, 2018, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4768](#) would require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that “If sufficient financing information is already collected by the government, based on the cost of similar activities CBO expects that implementing the bill would require three employees (at a cost of about \$150,000 a year for each) to coordinate the work of more than 10 government organizations. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost around \$450,000 annually and about \$2 million over the 2018-2022 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. If financing information regarding transnational organized crime is not currently collected by the government, costs could be significantly higher... CBO cannot determine whether comprehensive information on the financing of transnational organized criminal activity has been collected by the government, although Executive Order 13773 instructed federal agencies to work together against transnational criminals.”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would require the President to develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** Some conservatives may believe that Congress should set national strategies.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

In July 2011, President Obama released the [Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime](#) which described 56 priority actions to lessen the impact of transnational crime. In February 2017, President Trump issued [Executive Order 13773 Enforcing Federal Law With Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking](#) which required the interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group (TMWG) to “submit to the President a report on transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including the extent of penetration of such organizations into the United States, and issue additional reports annually thereafter to describe the progress made in combating these criminal organizations, along with any recommended actions for dismantling them.”

H.R. 4768 would require the President to “develop a national strategy to combat the financial networks of transnational organized criminals” and submit it to Congress within one year. The President would be required to update the strategy at least every two years. The President would be required to develop the strategy acting through the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of

Defense, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Director of the Secret Service, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Federal functional regulators.

The strategy would be required to include:

- An identification of the most significant current transnational organized crime threats,
- An identification of individuals, entities, and networks that provide financial support to transnational organized crime groups,
- A comprehensive discussion of short and long term goals for combatting the financing of transnational organized crime groups,
- A review of current efforts and proposed changes to law or regulations.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4768 was introduced on January 11, 2018, and referred to the Financial Services Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on January 18, 2018, by a 53 – 0 vote

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 4986 — Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services (RAY BAUM's) Act of 2018, as amended (Rep. Blackburn, R-TN)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on March 6, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4986](#) would reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The commission has not been reauthorized since Congress passed the [Federal Communications Commission Authorization Act of 1990](#).

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4986 would authorize \$333,118,000 for fiscal year 2019 and \$339,610,000 for fiscal year 2020 for the FCC to carry out its functions. The sum appropriated in any fiscal year to carry out these activities would be offset and derived from regulatory fees collected by the commission and authorized by [section 9 of the Communications Act of 1934](#). The FCC would be directed to assess and collect application and regulatory fees at rates set in a schedule of application fees to recover its costs to process applications. The FCC would be required to notify Congress of any adjustment to such fees. The bill further sets procedures for the fee structures as well as specified rules related to the payment of fees. The FCC was last authorized in FY 1991, but has continues to be funded in appropriations bills.

H.R. 4986 would extend the application of the Antideficiency Act, which prohibits officers or employees of the U.S. Government from authorizing the expenditure of funds that exceed the amount available in an appropriation by a year to the [Universal Service Program](#) until December 31, 2019.

The bill would require the FCC to submit a study to Congress on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility and cost of making telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points, and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, available to the general public for access to 9-1-1 services, without requiring any login credentials, during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; the provision by non-telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points of public access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and other alternative

means of providing the public with access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

The bill would require the FCC to submit a report to Congress on the state of the communications marketplace that assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service, multichannel video programming distributors, broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services. The bill would further repeal or amend a series of redundant or obsolete reporting requirements to include reports on satellite competition, on international broadband data, or on cable industry prices.

Section 403 of the bill would clarify that nothing in the legislation would be construed to expand or contract the authority of the FCC.

Title V of the bill would establish an independent Inspector General for the FCC. In addition, the bill would require the FCC's Chief Information Officer to have a significant role in the decision-making process for annual and multi-year planning, programming, budgeting, and execution decisions, related reporting requirements, and reports related to information technology; the management, governance, and oversight processes related to information technology; and the hiring of personnel with information technology responsibilities. The bill would expand and clarify the prohibition on misleading or inaccurate caller identification information or "spoofing" in connection with any voice service or text messaging service. In doing so, H.R. 4986 would require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on FCC and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) actions to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information. The bill would also require a report on promoting broadband internet access for veterans.

The FCC would be required to promulgate regulations to establish a methodology that shall apply to the collection of mobile service coverage data, and would be required to conclude a proceeding to consider adopting rules to ensure that the dispatchable location is conveyed with a 9-1-1 call, regardless of the technological platform used and including with calls from multi-line telephone systems.

The bill would set the terms of office and vacancies for the FCC to include for the commissioner who shall be appointed for a term of 5 years. The bill additionally requires the FCC to concurrently transmit any budget estimate, request, or legislative recommendations to Congress if it transmits those documents to the President or the Office of Management and Budget.

H.R. 4986 would establish a Broadcast Repack Fund in the Treasury of the United States which would serve as a reserve source for the payment of TV broadcaster relocation costs at the discretion of the FCC, but would require the commission to certify to Congress that such payments are necessary to reimburse reasonably incurred costs. The bill would also establish a Translator and Low Power Station Relocation Fund, and a FM Broadcast Station Relocation Fund, under the same structure, as well as a Broadcast Station Relocation Consumer Education Fund to make payments solely for the purposes of consumer education relating to the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum.

Title VII of the bill, or the "Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless Act" or the "MOBILE NOW Act" would require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the FCC by December 31, 2022, to make available at least 255 megahertz of federal and nonfederal spectrum below the frequency of 6000 megahertz for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use. 100 megahertz would be made available on an unlicensed basis; and 100 megahertz would be made available on an exclusive, licensed basis for commercial mobile use. 55 megahertz below the frequency of 8000 megahertz would be identified for use on either a licensed or unlicensed basis, or a combination of licensed and unlicensed. The FCC would be directed to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to consider service rules to authorize mobile or fixed terrestrial wireless

operations, including for advanced mobile service operations, in the radio frequency band between 42000 and 42500 megahertz.

Title VII would clarify that if an executive agency, a State, a political subdivision or agency of a State, or a person, firm, or organization applies for the grant of an easement, right-of-way, or lease to, in, over, or on a building or other property owned by the Federal Government for the right to install, construct, modify, or maintain a communications facility installation, the executive agency having control of the building may grant to the applicant, on behalf of the Federal Government an easement, right-of-way, or lease to perform the installation, construction, modification, or maintenance. Additionally, to facilitate the installation of broadband infrastructure, the Secretary of Transportation would be mandated to promulgate regulations to ensure that each State that receives funds under Federal highway aid meets specific requirements, including that the State department of transportation identifies a broadband utility coordinator, that may have additional responsibilities; establishes a process for the registration of broadband infrastructure entities that seek to be included in those broadband infrastructure right-of-way facilitation efforts within the State; and establishes a process to electronically notify broadband infrastructure entities on an annual basis. The title would also establish a national broadband facilities asset database.

The bill would require GAO to conduct a study to evaluate the availability of broadband Internet access using unlicensed spectrum and wireless networks in low-income neighborhoods. The bill would further require the FCC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to assess whether to establish a program, or modify existing programs, under which a licensee that receives a license for the exclusive use of spectrum in a specific geographic area may partition or disaggregate the license by sale or long-term lease in order to provide services consistent with the license; and make unused spectrum available to an unaffiliated covered small carrier; or an unaffiliated carrier to serve a rural area.

The FCC would be directed to ensure that its efforts related to spectrum allocation and assignment made available on an unlicensed basis radio frequency bands to address demand for unlicensed wireless broadband operations if doing so is reasonable, and in the public interest, after taking into account the future needs of homeland security, national security, and other spectrum users. The FCC with the NTIA would be required to develop a national plan for making additional radio frequency bands available for unlicensed or licensed by rule operations.

Title VII would authorize the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology to conduct prize competitions to accelerate the development and commercialization of technology that improves spectrum efficiency and is capable of cost-effective deployment, subject to the availability of funds. The Secretary of Commerce may award not more than \$5,000,000, in the aggregate, to the winner or winners of the prize competitions. Title VII would further prohibit State, or local jurisdictions, from requiring a person to collect from, or remit on behalf of, any other person a State or local tax, fee, or surcharge imposed on a purchaser or user with respect to the purchase or use of any wireless telecommunications service within the State unless the collection or remittance is in connection with a financial transaction. No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out title VII.

This title is similar to [S. 19](#), the “MOBILE NOW Act” which passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent on August 3, 2017.

[Ray Baum](#) served as the Staff Director of the House Energy and Commerce Committee until his passing on February 9, 2018, after a battle with cancer.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4986 was introduced on February 8, 2018, and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On [February 14, 2018](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 'necessary and proper' clause."

H.R. 1132 — Political Appointee Burrowing Prevention Act, as amended (Rep. Buck, R-CO)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered March 6, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1132](#) would prohibit political appointees from being appointed to a career position within two years of leaving their political position and would require the associate director of Merit Systems Accountability and Compliance to ensure appointees to a career position within an executive agency have been appointed in a process free from political influence.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 1132 would not result in significant costs to the federal government.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1132 would prohibit heads of an executive agency from appointing political appointees and certain former political appointees to a career position within the agency without first receiving approval from the associate director of Merit Systems Accountability and Compliance.

Heads of an executive agency must submit a request to the associate director to approve appointments and the requests must be accompanied by a certification that the position is needed to achieve the agency's mission. The associate director must then review the request and may only approve the request if the appointment process was fair, open, and free from political influence. At least five days prior to approving requests, the associate director is required to provide the certification and the rationale of that certification to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1132 prohibits the appointment of political appointees to a career position for two years after the appointee has left the political position. This does not apply to political appointees who have not "personally and substantially" participated in any activities while in their position. These activities include providing a decision, approval or disapproval, recommendation, and conducting an investigation.

The bill does not affect former career appointees from being reinstated according to [5 U.S.C. 3593](#).

According to the committee [report](#), the bill codifies and expands practices that are already being utilized by the Office of Personnel Management.

The House Report (H.R. 115-439) accompanying H.R. 1132 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1132 was introduced on February 16, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The bill was marked up on November 2, 2017 and was reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Clause 1, Section 8, of Article I of the United States Constitution, which states ``The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

H.R. 3737 — Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2017 (Rep. DeSantis, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered March 6, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3737](#) would require the Office of Management and Budget to submit a report to Congress regarding the review of a security clearance applicant's social media accounts during investigations.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 3737 would cost under \$500,000, subject to appropriation. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues, so pay-as-you-go would not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3737 would require the director of Office of Management and Budget to submit a report to Congress within 6 months of enactment regarding the review of a security clearance applicant's social media accounts during investigations. The report must include: (1) a description of the current use of social media in security clearance background investigations; (2) any legal impediments, statutory or regulatory, to examining public social media accounts; (3) the results of any pilot programs aiming to incorporate social media reviews; (4) options for including social media during investigations; (5) cost estimates for including social media reviews in all Top Secret and Secret investigations.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3737 was introduced on September 12, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The bill was marked up on September 13, 2017, and was reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (The President... "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, who Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments."), Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 ("The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposes, and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States..."), and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”).

H.R. 4043 — Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, as amended (Rep. Blum, R-IA)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered March 6, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4043](#) would re-designate the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman, as appointed by an agency's Inspector General, as the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator and add additional responsibilities to the position.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4043 would cost under \$500,000, subject to appropriation. The bill could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go would apply. CBO estimates these increases to be negligible. The bill would not affect revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would add additional responsibilities to the position of the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4043 would amend the [Inspector General Act of 1978](#) to replace the [Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman](#) appointed by each Inspector General with a Whistleblower Protection Coordinator. The Ombudsman was tasked with educating agency employees about the prohibitions against retaliation for protected disclosures and informing employees on their rights and remedies against retaliation for protected disclosures. These responsibilities will carry on to the coordinator position, and the coordinator will further be required to provide employees with the procedures to seek a review of allegations of reprisal, and timeframe information. The coordinator must also assist the Inspector General in ensuring the consideration of disclosures and allegations of reprisal are timely and appropriate. The coordinator must assist in facilitating coordination between the Special Counsel, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), the agency, Congress, and other appropriate entities, in ensuring timely and appropriate consideration of disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and implementation of whistleblower protection regulations.

The bill requires CIGIE to facilitate the work of the coordinators, and develop best practices for coordination in promoting timely and appropriate handling of disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and implementation of whistleblower protection regulations.

H.R. 4043 requires that the semiannual reports to congress compiled by the Inspectors General include information on whether or not the establishment entered into a settlement agreement with an official who has been found to have engaged in whistleblower retaliation.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4043 was introduced on October 12, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The bill was marked up on November 2, 2017, and was reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18".

S. 188 — EGO Act, as amended (Sen. Cassidy, R-LA)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered March 6, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 188](#) would prohibit federal funds from being used to pay for the painting of portraits for any federal officer or employee, including presidents, vice-presidents, or members of congress.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing S. 188 could reduce future discretionary costs by less than \$500,000. The bill could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go would apply, though net spending would be negligible. The bill would not affect revenues.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 188 would prohibit federal funds from being used to pay for the painting of portraits for any federal officer or employee, including presidents, vice-presidents, or members of congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 188 was introduced on January 23, 2017. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 18, 2017, and was sent to the House. There has been no further action on the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional Authority Statements are not required for bills that originate in the Senate.

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