S 3382

Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics
Introduced: Jul 12, 2012
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 12, 2012)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/3382

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]
Party: Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coburn, Tom [R-OK]	R · OK		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Aug 2, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 12, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 4078	Related bill	**Jul 31, 2012:** Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 477.
112 HR 3862	Related bill	**Jul 11, 2012:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 428.

Summary (as of Jul 12, 2012)

Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2012 - Defines a "covered civil action" as a civil action seeking to compel agency action and alleging that an agency is unlawfully withholding or unreasonably delaying an agency action relating to a regulatory action that would affect: (1) the rights of private persons other than the person bringing the action; or (2) a state, local, or tribal government. Defines a "covered settlement agreement" as: (1) a consent decree or settlement agreement entered into a covered civil action, and (2) any other consent decree or settlement agreement that requires agency action relating to such a regulatory action.

Requires an agency against which a covered civil action is brought to publish the complaint in a readily accessible manner and to provide interested parties an opportunity to intervene and to conduct settlement negotiations through mediation.

Requires an agency seeking to enter a covered settlement agreement to publish such agreement in the Federal Register and online not later than 60 days before it is filed with the court. Provides for public comment and public hearings on such agreement.

Requires the Attorney General or an agency head, if an agency is litigating a matter independently, to certify to the court that the Attorney General or the agency head approves of any proposed covered settlement agreement that includes terms that: (1) convert into a duty a discretionary authority of an agency to propose, promulgate, revise, or amend regulations; (2) commit an agency to expend funds that have not been appropriated and budgeted; (3) commit an agency to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization; (4) divest an agency of discretion committed to it by statute or the Constitution; or (5) otherwise afford any relief that the court could not enter under its own authority.

Requires a court to grant de novo review of a covered settlement agreement if an agency files a motion to modify such agreement on the basis that its terms are no longer fully in the public interest due to the agency's obligations to fulfill other duties or due to changed facts and circumstances.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 12, 2012:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 12, 2012:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4958-4960)
- **Jul 12, 2012:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com