

S 679

Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Mar 30, 2011

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 112-166.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 112-166. (Aug 10, 2012)

Law: 112-166 (Enacted Aug 10, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/679>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Kyl, Jon [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Lugar, Richard G. [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 30, 2011
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 21, 2011
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 21, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 13, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate June 29, 2011. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 - (Sec. 2) Eliminates the requirement of Senate approval (advice and consent) of specified presidentially-appointed positions in federal agencies and departments, as follows:

- Department of Agriculture: (1) Assistant Secretary for Administration, (2) Administrator of the Rural Utilities Services, and (3) all members of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation;
- Department of Commerce: Chief Scientist, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- Department of Defense (DOD): (1) all members of the National Security Education Board, and (2) Director of the Selective Service System;
- Department of Education: (1) Assistant Secretary for Management, and (2) Commissioner for Education Statistics;
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs;
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS): (1) Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, (2) Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), (3) Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, (4) Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, (5) Chief Medical Officer, and (6) Assistant Secretaries for Health Affairs, Legislative Affairs, and Public Affairs;
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs;
- Department of Justice (DOJ): (1) Directors of the Bureaus of Justice Statistics and Justice Assistance, (2) Director of the National Institute of Justice, (3) Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and (4) Director of the Office for Victims of Crime;
- Department of Labor: (1) Assistant Secretaries for Administration and Management and for Public Affairs, and (2) Director of the Women's Bureau;
- Department of State: Assistant Secretaries for Public Affairs and for Administration;
- Department of Transportation (DOT): (1) Assistant Secretaries for Budget and Programs and for Administration, (2) Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and (3) Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation;
- Department of the Treasury: (1) Assistant Secretaries for Public Affairs and for Management, and (2) Treasurer of the United States;
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Assistant Secretaries for Management, for Human Resources and Administration, for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, and for Operations, Security, and Preparedness;
- Appalachian Regional Commission: Alternative Federal Co-Chairman;
- Council of Economic Advisers: all members, except the Chairperson;
- Corporation for National and Community Service: Managing Director;
- National Council on Disability: all members, including the Chairperson;
- National Museum and Library Services Boards: all members;
- National Science Foundation (NSF): all Board members;
- Office of National Drug Control Policy: Deputy Directors;
- Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation: Commissioner;
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID): Assistant Administrator for Management;
- Community Development Financial Institution Fund: Administrator;
- Mississippi River Commission: all Commissioners;

National Board for Education Sciences: all members;

- National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board: all members; and
- Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: all members.

Eliminates the positions of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information and for Public Affairs.

Eliminates the requirement of Senate approval of all appointments to and promotions for the Commissioned Officer Corps in the Public Health Service and in NOAA.

Provides that removal of the requirement of Senate confirmation of any position in this Act shall not result in any such position being placed in the Senior Executive Service or alter compensation for such position.

Sec. 3) Expands the requirements for the appointment of a Director of the Census, including that such appointment be made without regard to political affiliation and that the appointee have a demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data. Limits the Director's term to five years, beginning on December 1, 2012, and prohibits a Director from serving more than two full terms. Authorizes the President to remove the Director from office after communicating in writing the reasons for removal to Congress not later than 60 days before the removal.

(Sec. 4) Establishes the Working Group on Streamlining Paperwork for Executive Nominations (Working Group) to study and report to the President and specified congressional committees on the streamlining of paperwork required for executive nominations and review the impact of background investigations requirements on the appointments process. Requires that the report of the Working Group include: (1) recommendations for the streamlining of paperwork required for executive nominations, and (2) a detailed plan for the creation and implementation of an electronic system for collecting and distributing background information from nominees for positions which require Senate approval. Requires such electronic system to provide for less of a burden on potential nominees for positions which require Senate approval, faster delivery of background information, fewer errors of omission, and a single, searchable form (Smart Form) that will be free to a nominee, will be easy to use, and will streamline the process of vetting a nominee and tracking information provided by a nominee.

(Sec. 5) Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study and report to Congress and the President on presidentially-appointed positions that do not require Senate approval.

(Sec. 6) Makes the provisions of this Act relating to Senate approval of presidential appointments effective 60 days after enactment and makes the other provisions effective upon enactment.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 10, 2012:** Signed by President.
- **Aug 10, 2012:** Became Public Law No: 112-166.
- **Aug 2, 2012:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 31, 2012:** Mr. Chaffetz moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jul 31, 2012:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5405-5410)
- **Jul 31, 2012:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 679.
- **Jul 31, 2012:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jul 31, 2012:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5448-5449)
- **Jul 31, 2012:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 261 - 116 (Roll no. 537).(text: CR H5405-5408)
- **Jul 31, 2012:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 261 - 116 (Roll no. 537). (text: CR H5405-5408)
- **Jul 31, 2012:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 1, 2011:** Received in the House.
- **Jul 1, 2011:** Held at the desk.
- **Jun 29, 2011:** Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S4174-4181)
- **Jun 29, 2011:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate, under the order of 6/22/2011, having achieved 60 votes in the affirmative, with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 79 - 20. Record Vote Number: 101.(text: CR S4178-4181)
- **Jun 29, 2011:** Passed Senate, under the order of 6/22/2011, having achieved 60 votes in the affirmative, with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 79 - 20. Record Vote Number: 101. (text: CR S4178-4181)
- **Jun 29, 2011:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 28, 2011:** Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S4144-4148)
- **Jun 23, 2011:** Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S4046-4066)
- **Jun 22, 2011:** Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the bill withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate. (consideration: CR S3991)
- **Jun 22, 2011:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S3991)
- **Jun 22, 2011:** Measure laid before Senate by motion. (consideration: CR S3991-4019; text of amendment in the nature of the substitute: CR S3991-3995)
- **Jun 22, 2011:** The committee substitute agreed to by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 21, 2011:** By Senator Lieberman from Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs filed written report. Report No. 112-24.
- **Jun 16, 2011:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure made in Senate. (consideration: CR S3874)
- **Jun 16, 2011:** Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the bill presented in Senate. (consideration: CR S3883; text: CR S3883)
- **Jun 13, 2011:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jun 13, 2011:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 75.
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 30, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 30, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1987-1988)
- **Mar 30, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.