

S 1869

Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Sep 27, 2017

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 115-192.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 115-192. (Jun 25, 2018)

Law: 115-192 (Enacted Jun 25, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1869>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

Party: Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Sep 27, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Sep 27, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 27, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 4, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 14, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4043	Related bill	Mar 7, 2018: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 340.

Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act

(Sec. 2) This bill permanently extends the requirement for inspectors general (IGs) to designate a Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman to educate agency employees about prohibitions on retaliation, and the rights and remedies against retaliation, for protected disclosures.

The bill renames the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman as the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator. It also expands the responsibilities of a Whistleblower Protection Coordinator to include the following:

- educating employees about specific rights and remedies (e.g., the means by which an employee may seek review of an allegation of reprisal);
- assisting the IG in promoting the timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures and allegations of reprisal; and
- assisting the IG in facilitating communication and coordination with other relevant persons and entities regarding timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and other general matters.

A Whistleblower Protection Coordinator must have direct access to the IG to accomplish such responsibilities.

The bill also expands the responsibilities of the Council on the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to include the following:

- facilitating the work of the Whistleblower Protection Coordinators; and
- developing best practices for promoting the timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and other matters.

Finally, the bill adds reporting requirements for semiannual reports. Specifically, with respect to instances of whistleblower retaliation by an official, an Office of Inspector General must report on (1) the actual consequences imposed on the official who engaged in retaliation, and (2) whether a settlement agreement was entered with that official.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 25, 2018:** Signed by President.
- **Jun 25, 2018:** Became Public Law No: 115-192.
- **Jun 14, 2018:** Presented to President.
- **Jun 7, 2018:** Considered by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR H4870-4871)
- **Jun 7, 2018:** Mr. Blum asked unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table and consider.
- **Jun 7, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed without objection.(text: CR H4870-4871)
- **Jun 7, 2018:** On passage Passed without objection. (text: CR H4870-4871)
- **Jun 7, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S1770-1771)
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S1771)
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Passed Senate with amendments by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S1771)
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Received in the House.
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Held at the desk.
- **Mar 15, 2018:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 14, 2017:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson with an amendment. With written report No. 115-196.
- **Dec 14, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 286.
- **Oct 4, 2017:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Sep 27, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 27, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.