

HR 4043

Whistleblower Protection Extension Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Oct 12, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Cale

Latest Action: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Calendar No. 340. (Mar 7, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4043>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Blum, Rod [R-IA-1]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Oct 12, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Reported By	Jan 11, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1869	Related bill	Jun 25, 2018: Became Public Law No: 115-192.

Whistleblower Protection Extension Act of 2017

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

- **Mar 7, 2018:** Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 340.
- **Mar 6, 2018:** Mr. Blum moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Mar 6, 2018:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1417-1418)
- **Mar 6, 2018:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4043.
- **Mar 6, 2018:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H1417-1418)
- **Mar 6, 2018:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H1417-1418)
- **Mar 6, 2018:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 11, 2018:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H. Rept. 115-510.
- **Jan 11, 2018:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 380.
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Oct 12, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 12, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.