

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 538, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 538

To require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Government Customer
5 Service Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND**
2 **STANDARDS FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE PRO-**
3 **VIDED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STAND-
6 ARDS.—The Director of the Office of Management
7 and Budget shall develop—

8 (A) performance measures to determine
9 whether Federal agencies are providing high-
10 quality customer service and improving service
11 delivery to their customers; and

12 (B) standards to be met by Federal agen-
13 cies in order to provide high-quality customer
14 service and improve service delivery to their
15 customers.

16 (2) REQUIREMENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
17 CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The standards under
18 paragraph (1) shall be developed after taking into
19 account the information collected by Federal agen-
20 cies under subsection (b).

21 (b) CUSTOMER SERVICE INPUT.—The head of each
22 Federal agency shall collect information from its cus-
23 tomers regarding the quality of customer services provided
24 by the agency. Each Federal agency shall include this in-
25 formation in its performance report submitted under sec-
26 tion 1116 of title 31, United States Code.

1 (c) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE.—The Director
2 of the Office of Management and Budget shall include
3 achievements by Federal agencies in meeting customer
4 service performance measures and standards developed
5 under subsection (a) in each update on agency perform-
6 ance required under section 1116 of title 31, United
7 States Code.

8 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE STAND-**
9 **ARDS.**

10 (a) CUSTOMER RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE.—The
11 head of each Federal agency shall designate an employee
12 to be the customer relations representative of the agency.
13 Such representative shall be responsible for implementing
14 the customer service standards developed under section 2
15 and the agency requirements under subsection (b).

16 (b) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (1) GUIDELINES AND CONTACT INFORMA-
18 TION.—The head of each Federal agency, acting
19 through its customer relations representative,
20 shall—

21 (A) issue guidelines to implement the cus-
22 tomer service standards developed under section
23 2 within the agency, including specific prin-
24 ciples of customer service applicable to that
25 agency; and

1 (B) publish customer service contact infor-
2 mation, including a mailing address, telephone
3 number, and e-mail address.

4 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The guidelines and the
5 customer service contact information required under
6 this subsection shall be available on the agency’s
7 public website.

8 **SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL.**

9 Compliance with customer service standards devel-
10 oped under this Act shall be included in the performance
11 appraisal systems referred to in sections 4302(a) and
12 4312 of title 5, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) The term “customer”, with respect to a
16 Federal agency, means any individual or entity, in-
17 cluding a business, State or local government, other
18 Federal agency, or Congress, to which the agency
19 provides services or information.

20 (2) The term “Federal agency” has the mean-
21 ing given the term “Executive agency” by section
22 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that the
23 term does not include an agency if the President de-
24 termines that this Act should not apply to the agen-
25 cy for national security reasons.

1 SEC. 6. DEFICIT REDUCTION.

2 Any savings or reductions in expenditures resulting
3 from this Act shall be used to offset the costs of implemen-
4 tation of this Act, and any additional savings shall be used
5 to reduce the deficit.