

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

**MEMORANDUM**

**May 10, 2021**

**To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Committee Business Meeting**

On **Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and remotely on the Zoom video platform**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid business meeting to consider the following:

1. H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the Postal Service Reform Act.
2. H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the Postal Service Improvement Act.
3. H.R. 1930, the Federal Advisory Committee Transparency Act.
4. H.R. 2485, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act.
5. H.R. 2681, the Integrity Committee Transparency Act.
6. H.R. 978, the Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act.
7. Postal Naming Measures.

**I. H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, THE POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT**

The Committee held a legislative hearing on an earlier version of this bill on February 24, 2021. H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ includes provisions that would:

- Require Medicare integration of Postal Service employees;
- Repeal a requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund retiree health benefits;
- Require an online, publicly available dashboard to track service performance;

- Require the Postal Service to operate six days per week using an integrated network;
- Require the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) to review the cost allocations between market-dominant and competitive products;
- Permit an expansion of special rates to improve local newspaper sustainability;
- Direct funding from the Postal Service Fund for the PRC;
- Require a study and remedial plan on the operational inefficiencies related to flats (magazines and catalogues);
- Require reporting on Postal Service operations and financing;
- Update the Postal Service transportation selection law (39 U.S.C. 101(f));
- Merge the Postal Service Inspector General and Postal Regulatory Commission Inspector General into a single Inspector General of the Postal Service; and
- Allow the Postal Service to enter into agreements with State, local, and tribal governments to provide non-commercial property and services that provide enhanced value, do not detract from postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to the institutional costs of the Postal Service.

Majority and minority staffs are working to finalize the text of this bill.

## **II. H.R. \_\_\_\_, THE POSTAL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT**

The Postal Service Improvement Act would help the Postal Service more efficiently and effectively manage mail-in ballots in federal elections by requiring all mail-in ballots to include a Postal Service trackable barcode and other stylistic requirements to make ballots easier to sort and track. It would also expand access to paid parental leave to all Postal Service employees.

## **III. H.R. 1930, THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Federal advisory committees—which may also be labeled as commissions, councils, task forces, or working groups—are established to assist congressional and executive branch policymaking and grantmaking. Federal advisory committees may be established by Congress, the president, or an agency head to render independent advice or provide the federal government with policy recommendations. In 1972, Congress enacted the Federal Advisory Committee Act

(FACA), prompted by the perception that some advisory committees were duplicative, inefficient, and lacking in adequate oversight.<sup>1</sup>

H.R. 1930, the Federal Advisory Committee Transparency Act, was introduced by Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer and would require agencies to inform advisory committee members of any applicable ethics requirements, ensure the disclosure of detailed minutes from advisory committee meetings, and clarify that the law applies to subcommittees and to committees set up by a contractor. According to a coalition of transparency and good-government groups and experts, the proposed reforms in this bipartisan bill would “make advisory committees more transparent, strengthen the independence of advisory committees, improve oversight of the advisory committee process, and close implementation loopholes.”<sup>2</sup>

The Federal Advisory Committee Transparency Act passed the House in 2019 by voice vote, and substantially similar bills passed the House in the 115th and 114th Congresses. On May 3, 2021, H.R. 1930 was considered in a full Committee hearing. Elizabeth Hempowicz from the Project on Government Oversight said the bill “would make it easier for Congress to conduct necessary oversight and would reduce the unnecessary secrecy that fuels distrust in government.”<sup>3</sup> Rudy Mehrbani from Democracy Fund testified that the legislation would “bolster the accountability and transparency of federal advisory committees.”<sup>4</sup>

#### **IV. H.R. 2485, THE ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT**

The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (ACMRA), H.R. 2485, was introduced by Rep. Quigley and Ranking Member Comer on April 13, 2021. The House passed the bill unanimously in the 116th Congress. The bill has 22 bipartisan cosponsors and is supported by more than 30 good-government groups.

The ACMRA would enhance government transparency by creating a single website where the public can access reports that agencies submit to Congress. The legislation would require the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain this website to allow the public to search, sort, and download all congressionally mandated reports for free. The bill

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, *Federal Advisory Committees: An Introduction and Overview* (Oct. 27, 2016) (R44253) (online at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/R44253.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from 24 Organizations and Experts to Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Ranking Member James Comer, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Mar. 16, 2021) (online at [https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Letter%20Plum%20Book%20Transparency%202021-03-16\\_coalition%20letter.pdf](https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Letter%20Plum%20Book%20Transparency%202021-03-16_coalition%20letter.pdf)).

<sup>3</sup> Committee on Oversight and Reform, Testimony of Elizabeth Hempowicz, Director of Public Policy, Project on Government Oversight, *Hearing on Improving Government Accountability and Transparency* (May 3, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/improving-government-accountability-and-transparency>).

<sup>4</sup> Committee on Oversight and Reform, Testimony of Rudy Mehrbani, Senior Advisor, Democracy Fund, *Hearing on Improving Government Accountability and Transparency* (May 3, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/improving-government-accountability-and-transparency>).

would not require information exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act to be disclosed.

## **V. H.R. 2681, THE INTEGRITY COMMITTEE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

The Integrity Committee Transparency Act was introduced by Subcommittee on Government Operations Chairman Connolly and Ranking Member Hice, Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Maloney, and Representatives Davis, Norton, Porter, Raskin, Lawrence, Lynch, Khanna, and Sarbanes on April 20, 2021. The Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing that discussed the bill on April 20, 2021. The bill would amend the Inspector General (IG) Act of 1978 to codify administrative reforms to increase the transparency in reporting by the Integrity Committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency of investigations involving allegations of wrongdoing within offices of inspectors general.

Specifically, the bill would make the Integrity Committee's periodic reporting to Congress a semi-annual requirement. The Integrity Committee chairperson would also be required to report immediately to an IG if the Committee becomes aware of any particularly serious or flagrant problems, abuses, or deficiencies at the IG's office. The IG would have to transmit this report to Congress within seven days. The bill would also add requirements for the Integrity Committee to communicate the length of time spent evaluating investigations for which it requests extensions, information regarding how it evaluates allegations made by a member of Congress if the review is closed without referral, and analysis of allegations filed. Finally, the bill would expand the membership of the Integrity Committee to include a former IG.

## **VI. H.R. 978, THE CHAI SUTHAMMANONT REMEMBRANCE ACT**

The Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act was introduced by Subcommittee on Government Operations Chairman Connolly, Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Maloney, and Representatives Speier, Sarbanes, Raskin, Norton, and Lynch on February 11, 2021. The Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing that discussed the bill on February 23, 2021. The bill would require each agency to prepare and communicate a safety plan for returning workers to physical worksites. The plan would include descriptions of the personal protective equipment that the agency will provide to its on-site employees and contractors; guidance on other mitigation efforts; protections for employees whose work requires them to travel off-site; testing, contact-tracing, and vaccination protocols; and procedures that ensure the continuity of operations in the event that it is necessary to reverse on-site requirements. The bill would also require each agency's Office of the Inspector General to report on whether the agency has published and implemented its safety plan.

## **VII. AMENDMENT PROCESS**

Committee Rule 2(g) authorizes the Chair of the Committee to prioritize the consideration of amendments filed 24 hours in advance of the consideration of matters before the Committee or subcommittees. Pursuant to this rule, and at the Chair's discretion, the Committee may consider amendments that are pre-filed with the Committee clerk prior to amendments offered at a markup.

Members should pre-file amendments with the clerk of the Committee by emailing a searchable, electronic PDF copy of the amendment prepared by the House Legislative Counsel to Oversight\_Clerks@mail.house.gov and to Christina Parisi at Christina.Parisi@mail.house.gov at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the business meeting. Members should include in the email accompanying the amendment text:

1. the name(s) of the Member(s) who will offer the amendment;
2. the name and number of the measure to be amended;
3. a brief, one-sentence description of the amendment; and
4. the name and phone number of a staff member who will serve as the point of contact for the amendment.

Pre-filed amendments will be compiled into a single roster, and the roster will be made available to Committee members prior to business meetings. Any amendment to a measure or matter before the Committee or a subcommittee should be germane to the measure or matter, including in scope, subject matter, and Committee consideration. Votes on amendments likely will be grouped together at a time determined by the Chair, pursuant to Committee Rules.