

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1550

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## AN ACT

To amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Program Management  
3 Improvement Accountability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT.**

5 (a) **ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.**—Section 503 of title  
6 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 “(c) **PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.**—

9 “(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Subject to the direction  
10 and approval of the Director, the Deputy Director  
11 for Management or a designee shall—

12 “(A) adopt governmentwide standards,  
13 policies, and guidelines for program and project  
14 management for executive agencies;

15 “(B) oversee implementation of program  
16 and project management for the standards,  
17 policies, and guidelines established under sub-  
18 paragraph (A);

19 “(C) chair the Program Management Pol-  
20 icy Council established under section 1126(b);

21 “(D) establish standards and policies for  
22 executive agencies, consistent with widely ac-  
23 cepted standards for program and project man-  
24 agement planning and delivery;

25 “(E) engage with the private sector to  
26 identify best practices in program and project

1 management that would improve Federal pro-  
2 gram and project management;

3 “(F) conduct portfolio reviews to address  
4 programs identified as high risk by the Govern-  
5 ment Accountability Office;

6 “(G) not less than annually, conduct port-  
7 folio reviews of agency programs in coordination  
8 with Project Management Improvement Officers  
9 designated under section 1126(a)(1) to assess  
10 the quality and effectiveness of program man-  
11 agement; and

12 “(H) establish a 5-year strategic plan for  
13 program and project management.

14 “(2) APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF DE-  
15 FENSE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the De-  
16 partment of Defense to the extent that the provi-  
17 sions of that paragraph are substantially similar to  
18 or duplicative of the provisions of chapter 87 of title  
19 10.”.

20 (b) DEADLINE FOR STANDARDS, POLICIES, AND  
21 GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
22 actment of this Act, the Deputy Director for Management  
23 of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue the  
24 standards, policies, and guidelines required under section

1 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by sub-  
 2 section (a).

3 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the  
 4 date on which the standards, policies, and guidelines are  
 5 issued under subsection (b), the Deputy Director for Man-  
 6 agement of the Office of Management and Budget, in con-  
 7 sultation with the Program Management Policy Council  
 8 established under section 1126(b) of title 31, United  
 9 States Code, as added by section 3(a), and the Director  
 10 of the Office of Management and Budget, shall issue any  
 11 regulations as are necessary to implement the require-  
 12 ments of section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code,  
 13 as added by subsection (a).

14 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS**  
 15 **AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICY COUN-**  
 16 **CIL.**

17 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United  
 18 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 19 lowing:

20 **“§ 1126. Program Management Improvement Officers**  
 21 **and Program Management Policy Council**

22 **“(a) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT OFFI-**  
 23 **CERS.—**

24 **“(1) DESIGNATION.—**The head of each agency  
 25 described in section 901(b) shall designate a senior

1 executive of the agency as the Program Management  
2 Improvement Officer of the agency.

3 “(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Program Management  
4 Improvement Officer of an agency designated under  
5 paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) implement program management poli-  
7 cies established by the agency under section  
8 503(c); and

9 “(B) develop a strategy for enhancing the  
10 role of program managers within the agency  
11 that includes the following:

12 “(i) Enhanced training and edu-  
13 cational opportunities for program man-  
14 agers that shall include—

15 “(I) training in the relevant com-  
16 petencies encompassed with program  
17 and project manager within the pri-  
18 vate sector for program managers;  
19 and

20 “(II) training that emphasizes  
21 cost containment for large projects  
22 and programs.

23 “(ii) Mentoring of current and future  
24 program managers by experienced senior

1 executives and program managers within  
2 the agency.

3 “(iii) Improved career paths and ca-  
4 reer opportunities for program managers.

5 “(iv) A plan to encourage the recruit-  
6 ment and retention of highly qualified indi-  
7 viduals to serve as program managers.

8 “(v) Improved means of collecting and  
9 disseminating best practices and lessons  
10 learned to enhance program management  
11 across the agency.

12 “(vi) Common templates and tools to  
13 support improved data gathering and anal-  
14 ysis for program management and over-  
15 sight purposes.

16 “(3) APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF DE-  
17 FENSE.—This subsection shall not apply to the De-  
18 partment of Defense to the extent that the provi-  
19 sions of this subsection are substantially similar to  
20 or duplicative of the provisions of chapter 87 of title  
21 10.

22 “(b) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICY COUNCIL.—

23 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in  
24 the Office of Management and Budget a council to  
25 be known as the ‘Program Management Policy

1 Council' (in this subsection referred to as the 'Council'  
2 cil').

3 “(2) PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS.—The Council  
4 shall act as the principal interagency forum for im-  
5 proving agency practices related to program and  
6 project management. The Council shall—

7 “(A) advise and assist the Deputy Director  
8 for Management of the Office of Management  
9 and Budget;

10 “(B) review programs identified as high  
11 risk by the General Accountability Office and  
12 make recommendations for actions to be taken  
13 by the Deputy Director for Management of the  
14 Office of Management and Budget or a des-  
15 ignee;

16 “(C) discuss topics of importance to the  
17 workforce, including—

18 “(i) career development and workforce  
19 development needs;

20 “(ii) policy to support continuous im-  
21 provement in program and project manage-  
22 ment; and

23 “(iii) major challenges across agencies  
24 in managing programs;

1           “(D) advise on the development and appli-  
2           cability of standards governmentwide for pro-  
3           gram management transparency; and

4           “(E) review the information published on  
5           the website of the Office of Management and  
6           Budget pursuant to section 1122.

7           “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

8           “(A) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be  
9           composed of the following members:

10           “(i) Five members from the Office of  
11           Management and Budget as follows:

12                   “(I) The Deputy Director for  
13                   Management.

14                   “(II) The Administrator of the  
15                   Office of Electronic Government.

16                   “(III) The Administrator of Fed-  
17                   eral Procurement Policy.

18                   “(IV) The Controller of the Of-  
19                   fice of Federal Financial Manage-  
20                   ment.

21                   “(V) The Director of the Office  
22                   of Performance and Personnel Man-  
23                   agement.



1           “(ii) The Program Management Im-  
2           provement Officer from each agency de-  
3           scribed in section 901(b).

4           “(iii) Other individuals as determined  
5           appropriate by the Chairperson.

6           “(B) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-  
7           PERSON.—

8           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Di-  
9           rector for Management of the Office of  
10          Management and Budget shall be the  
11          Chairperson of the Council. A Vice Chair-  
12          person shall be elected by the members and  
13          shall serve a term of not more than 1 year.

14          “(ii) DUTIES.—The Chairperson shall  
15          preside at the meetings of the Council, de-  
16          termine the agenda of the Council, direct  
17          the work of the Council, and establish and  
18          direct subgroups of the Council as appro-  
19          priate.

20          “(4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not  
21          less than twice per fiscal year and may meet at the  
22          call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members  
23          of the Council.

24          “(5) SUPPORT.—The head of each agency with  
25          a Project Management Improvement Officer serving

1 on the Council shall provide administrative support  
2 to the Council, as appropriate, at the request of the  
3 Chairperson.

4 “(6) COMMITTEE DURATION.—Section 14(a)(2)  
5 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.  
6 App.) shall not apply to the Council.”.

7 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-  
9 fice of Management and Budget, in consultation with each  
10 Program Management Improvement Officer designated  
11 under section 1126(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code,  
12 shall submit to Congress a report containing the strategy  
13 developed under section 1126(a)(2)(B) of such title, as  
14 added by subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PER-**  
16 **SONNEL STANDARDS.**

17 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency”  
18 means each agency described in section 901(b) of title 31,  
19 United States Code.

20 (b) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180  
21 days after the date on which the standards, policies, and  
22 guidelines are issued under section 503(c) of title 31,  
23 United States Code, as added by section 2(a), the Director  
24 of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation

1 with the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
2 et, shall issue regulations that—

3 (1) identify key skills and competencies needed  
4 for a program and project manager in an agency;

5 (2) establish a new job series, or update and  
6 improve an existing job series, for program and  
7 project management within an agency; and

8 (3) establish a new career path for program  
9 and project managers within an agency.

10 **SEC. 5. GAO REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES ON**  
11 **PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.**

12 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment  
13 of this Act, the Government Accountability Office shall  
14 issue, in conjunction with the High Risk list of the Gov-  
15 ernment Accountability Office, a report examining the ef-  
16 fectiveness of the following on improving Federal program  
17 and project management:

18 (1) The standards, policies, and guidelines for  
19 program and project management issued under sec-  
20 tion 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added  
21 by section 2(a).

22 (2) The 5-year strategic plan established under  
23 section 503(c)(1)(H) of title 31, United States Code,  
24 as added by section 2(a).

1           (3) Program Management Improvement Offi-  
2           cers designated under section 1126(a)(1) of title 31,  
3           United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

4           (4) The Program Management Policy Council  
5           established under section 1126(b)(1) of title 31,  
6           United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

Passed the Senate November 19, 2015.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



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