

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2188

To require government-wide application of continuous process improvement methods to reduce waste and improve the effectiveness of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2011

Mr. LATHAM (for himself and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To require government-wide application of continuous process improvement methods to reduce waste and improve the effectiveness of the Federal Government, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “LESS Government
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Nearly 100 major United States corpora-
2 tions, and many government entities around the
3 world, have reduced waste in their operations and
4 improved the quality of the goods and services they
5 provide by implementing a continuous process im-
6 provement methodology known as lean six sigma.

7 (2) Use of this methodology has resulted in av-
8 erage cost reductions greater than 25 percent while
9 also improving the quality of goods and services.

10 (3) The piloted use of lean six sigma within the
11 Department of Defense and several other depart-
12 ments and agencies has demonstrated that it can
13 successfully be applied across the Federal Govern-
14 ment.

15 (4) Continuous process improvement is essential
16 for Federal agencies to be successful in setting and
17 meeting performance goals and is a key component
18 that is missing from current statutory requirements
19 for performance improvement efforts.

20 (5) Clear direction and authority from Congress
21 is needed to ensure this innovative management
22 process from the private sector is applied across the
23 Federal Government to achieve waste reduction and
24 optimal efficiency.

1 (b) CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It
2 shall be the policy of the United States—

3 (1) to reduce waste and improve the effective-
4 ness of the Federal Government through the use of
5 continuous process improvement methods;

6 (2) to require each Federal agency to imple-
7 ment the necessary capabilities to fully institu-
8 tionalize such methods within such agency to reduce
9 waste while maintaining or improving the level of
10 services provided by the Federal Government; and

11 (3) to return savings from such methods to the
12 United States Treasury to reduce the deficit.

13 **SEC. 3. CONTINUOUS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT.**

14 (a) CONTINUOUS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT DE-
15 FINED.—Section 1101 of title 31, United States Code, is
16 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
17 graph:

18 “(3) ‘continuous process improvement’ means a
19 management methodology (commonly referred to as
20 lean six sigma) that combines tools to improve proc-
21 ess speed, reduce waste, and incorporate require-
22 ments with data driven project analysis to provide
23 products and services with improved quality at lower
24 cost.”.

1 (b) AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—Sub-
2 section (c) of section 1116 of such title is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”;

4 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
5 inserting “; and”; and

6 (3) by inserting at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(8) describe the implementation of continuous
9 process improvement, including information on each
10 of the following:

11 “(A) The extent to which employees have
12 received continuous process improvement train-
13 ing appropriate to the position of such em-
14 ployee, and its relation to the deployment goals
15 in a typical application of continuous process
16 improvement.

17 “(B) A description of the application of
18 continuous process improvement in cost-reduc-
19 tion projects, including any performance or
20 quality improvements and cost savings realized
21 as a result of such application.

22 “(C) A comparison of the implementation
23 results to the goal of a 25 percent cost reduc-
24 tion per project.”.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS.—Subsection (c) of
2 section 1122 of such title is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and”;

4 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
5 inserting “; and”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(10) a description of the results of the govern-
9 ment-wide implementation of continuous process im-
10 provement.”.

11 (d) CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REQUIREMENT.—
12 Subsection (b) of section 1123 of such title is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and”;

14 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
15 inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by inserting at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(5) implement continuous process improve-
19 ment within the agency.”.

20 (e) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER RE-
21 QUIREMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 1124(a) of such
22 title is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “; and”;

24 (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period
25 and inserting “; and”; and

1 (3) by inserting at the end the following new
2 subparagraph:

3 “(G) advise and assist the head of the
4 agency and the Chief Operating Officer on im-
5 plementing the continuous process improvement
6 within the agency.”.

7 (f) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.—Sub-
8 section (b) of section 1124 of such title is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

10 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
11 and (D) as (D) and (E), respectively; and

12 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B),
13 the following new subparagraph:

14 “(C) an appropriate expert designated by
15 the Director of the Office of Management and
16 Budget pursuant to paragraph (4);”;

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(4) DESIGNATION OF EXPERT ON CONTINUOUS
20 PROCESS IMPROVEMENT.—The Director of the Of-
21 fice of Management and Budget shall appoint a
22 highly-qualified expert on continuous process im-
23 provement to serve as a member of the Performance
24 Improvement Council to advise on the implementa-

1 tion of continuous process improvement across agen-
2 cies.”.

3 **SEC. 4. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CONTINUOUS PROC-**
4 **ESS IMPROVEMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new section:

8 **“§ 1126. Center of Excellence for continuous process**
9 **improvement**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
11 Management and Budget shall designate a center of excel-
12 lence for continuous process improvement training, from
13 within the Department of Defense.

14 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Director shall ensure that
15 the center designated under subsection (a) provides agen-
16 cies with a common set of approaches to training and de-
17 ployment of continuous process improvement.”.

18 (b) DESIGNATION.—The Director of the Office of
19 Management and Budget shall designate the center of ex-
20 cellence required under section 1126(a) of title 31, United
21 States Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than
22 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
24 The table of contents for chapter 11 of title 31, United

1 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
2 ing to section 1125 the following new item:

“1126. Center of excellence for continuous process improvement.”.

3 **SEC. 5. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF APPROPRIA-**
4 **TIONS REQUESTS TO THE PRESIDENT.**

5 Paragraph (1) of section 1108(b) of title 31, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing: “The head of each agency shall include informa-
8 tion on the results of cost-reduction projects using contin-
9 uous process improvement in each relevant appropriation
10 request for the agency, and an explanation of how any
11 savings from such implementation have impacted the
12 agency’s request.”.

13 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 Except as otherwise expressly provided under this
15 Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
16 take effect 6 months after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act.

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