

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2308

To improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission  
of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2011

Mr. GARRETT (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DOLD, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HURT, Mr. CANSECO, and Mr. YODER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange  
Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations  
and orders.

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 “SEC Regulatory Ac-  
5       countability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION BY THE SECURITIES AND EX-**  
2 **CHANGE COMMISSION OF THE COSTS AND**  
3 **BENEFITS OF ITS REGULATIONS AND OR-**  
4 **DERS.**

5 Section 23 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
6 (15 U.S.C. 78w) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(e) CONSIDERATION OF COSTS AND BENEFITS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before promulgating a reg-  
10 ulation under the securities laws, as defined in sec-  
11 tion 3(a), or issuing any order pursuant to such  
12 laws, the Commission shall—

13 “(A) clearly identify the nature of the  
14 problem that the proposed regulation is de-  
15 signed to address, as well as assess the signifi-  
16 cance of that problem, to enable assessment of  
17 whether any new regulation is warranted;

18 “(B) utilize the Office of the Chief Econo-  
19 mist to assess the costs and benefits, both qual-  
20 itative and quantitative, of the intended regula-  
21 tion or order and propose or adopt a regulation  
22 or order only on a reasoned determination that  
23 the benefits of the intended regulation or order  
24 justify the costs of the intended regulation or  
25 order; and

1           “(C) ensure that any regulation or order is  
2           accessible, consistent, written in plain language,  
3           and easy to understand and shall measure, and  
4           seek to improve, the actual results of regulatory  
5           requirements.

6           “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether  
7           and how to regulate, the Commission shall assess  
8           the costs and benefits of available regulatory alter-  
9           natives, including the alternative of not regulating.  
10          In addition, the Commission may also take the fol-  
11          lowing actions in making a reasoned determination  
12          of the costs and benefits of a potential regulation—

13                 “(A) assess the best ways of protecting  
14                 market participants and the public;

15                 “(B) take into consideration investor  
16                 choice;

17                 “(C) consider the impact on capital forma-  
18                 tion;

19                 “(D) evaluate the effect on the efficiency,  
20                 competitiveness, and financial integrity of secu-  
21                 rities markets;

22                 “(E) consider the impact on market liquid-  
23                 ity in the securities markets;

24                 “(F) take into consideration price dis-  
25                 covery;

1           “(G) evaluate sound risk management  
2 practices;

3           “(H) evaluate the degree and nature of the  
4 risks posed by various activities within the  
5 scope of its jurisdiction;

6           “(I) determine whether, consistent with ob-  
7 taining regulatory objectives, the regulation is  
8 tailored to impose the least burden on society,  
9 including market participants, individuals, busi-  
10 nesses of differing sizes, and other entities (in-  
11 cluding State and local governmental entities),  
12 taking into account, to the extent practicable,  
13 the cumulative costs of regulations;

14           “(J) determine whether the regulation is  
15 inconsistent, incompatible, or duplicative of  
16 other Federal regulations; and

17           “(K) determine whether, in choosing  
18 among alternative regulatory approaches, those  
19 approaches maximize net benefits.

20           “(3) REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS.—

21           The Commission shall periodically review its regula-  
22 tions and orders in effect before the date of enact-  
23 ment of this subsection to determine whether any  
24 such regulations or orders are outmoded, ineffective,  
25 insufficient, or excessively burdensome, and shall

- 1 modify, streamline, expand, or repeal them in ac-
- 2 cordance with such review.”.

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