

Congressional Research Service on Executive Order 12291

A report by the [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS) examined the impact of E.O. 12291 in terms of the number of rules reviewed by [OIRA](#).^[10]

“ In practical effect, the impact of the Reagan orders on agency regulatory activities was immediate and substantial. Under the order, OIRA reviewed over 2,000 regulations per year and returned multiple rules for agency reconsideration. The practical effect of this rigorous review process was to sensitize agencies to the regulatory agenda of the Reagan Administration, largely resulting in the enactment of regulations that reflected the goals of the Administration.^[10]”

The [CRS](#) report also identified the growth in opposition to E.O. 12291 in the years following its implementation that contributed to President Clinton's revocation of the order in 1993.^[10]

“ Not surprisingly, this review process generated criticism and controversy. In particular, the review scheme was seen by some as having a distinct anti-regulatory bias, leading to charges that the orders constituted an unlawful transfer of authority from the agencies to OMB; that the review process was too secretive and subject to influence by private interests; that OMB lacked the resources or expertise to properly assess submitted regulations; and that the required cost-benefit analysis did not take into account the unquantifiable social benefits of certain types of regulations.¹¹ Additionally, E.O. 12,291 was criticized on the grounds that it allowed OIRA to delay indefinitely rules under review, unless a countervailing statutory deadline or court order mandated promulgation.^[10]”

[An Excerpt from Ballotpedia](#)