

Summary (first two pages)
Detailed per-president documentation follows summary
May 11, 2025, by DouglasLucas.com

Conclusion: With one potential partial exception (Carter's second instance), all presidents to whom Congress has granted reorganization authority, since it began in 1932, asked for it—as president or president-elect—ahead of the earliest pertinent legislation's introduction, usually by weeks or months in advance. Whether Carter's second instance of receiving the authority is a partial exception is debatable: if not, then he asked weeks in advance; if so, then one of his top, perhaps his very top, reorg. official at OMB, facing a deadline squeeze for the authority's expiration, clarified Carter's request to the Senate 37 days after the relevant bill had been introduced while the Senate was still debating whether to pass it, 6 days before Carter's eventual signature. Either way, Carter explained himself to the public ahead of signature, and I'd argue he did so ahead of the bill's introduction by 28 days.

Hoover (1929-33)

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) More than 2 months: about 2 months, 20 days ([calculation](#))

Second instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 5 months, 24 days using Republican platform date ([calculation](#))

FDRoosevelt (1933-45)

Doesn't count half-instance:

Upon Mar. 4, 1933 inauguration, FDR inherited reorg. authority from predecessor; thus couldn't presidentially ask for it in advance

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 1 day

Second instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) More than 2 years, 1 month

Truman (1945-53)

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 14 days ([calculation](#))

Second instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 9.5 months ([calculation](#))

Eisenhower (1953-61)

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS-ELECT in advance of earliest bill) at least: over 2 weeks

Second instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 2 weeks

Third instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 3 days

JFKennedy (1961-1963)

Time explained/requested AS POTUS-ELECT in advance of earliest bill) 17 days

LBJohnson (1963-1969)

Doesn't count half-instance:

LBJ inherited renewal legislation that had been introduced during his assassinated predecessor's administration

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) More than 2 weeks; 15 days ([calculation](#))

Nixon (1969-74)

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 19 days ([calculation](#))

Second instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 1 month, 23 days ([calculation](#))

Ford N/A

Carter (1977-81)

First instance:

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 2 days—using the Feb. 2, 1977 date to be cautious ([calculation](#)).

Second instance (potential partial exception):

Time explained/requested AS POTUS as leg. pending) 6 days b4 signed; arguably ahead earliest bill) 28 days—from Jan.28, 1980

Reagan (1981-1989)

Time explained/requested AS POTUS ahead of earliest bill) 1 year, 9 months, 2 days from May 6, 1981 to HR 1314 intro'd ([calc](#))

Hoover (1929-33)

First instance

N.B.) In Jan. 1924 as Commerce Secretary, Hoover [testified](#) to Congress that they should authorize reorg powers for President Coolidge.

Public explanation / formal request) On Dec. 29, 1931, a day on which President Hoover [held](#) a news conference, his administration also released his "[Statement on Economy in Government](#)", which began: "The most constructive direction for economy in Federal expenditure beyond a rigid reduction of appropriations and the resolute opposition to new appropriations lies in the consolidation of Government bureaus and general reorganization of the Federal Government. I have recommended this reorganization in public [...] throughout the past 10 years."¹

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority into law) On June 30, 1932, President Herbert Hoover [signed](#) into law the "Economy Act of 1932" into law, becoming the first ² president with reorganization authority: [47 Stat. 413 \(technically](#), Part II of the Legislative Appropriations Act for FY1933). Underlying bills: H.R. 11267 [introduced Apr. 11, 1932](#); later went over to the Senate.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) More than 2 months**: about 2 months, 20 days ([calculation](#)).

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) A day over six months elapsed between the Dec. 29, 1931 public explanation³ and the June 30, 1932 signature, [making](#) at least six months in advance ([calculation](#)).

¹ In addition to being tantamount to asking Congress, this statement indicates that prior to Dec. 29, 1931, Hoover had sent messages to Congress recommending presidential reorganization authority; he might have done that as Secretary of Commerce, but presumably he did it as President Hoover as well.

² As we now understand it; the Overman Act and other legislation enabled wartime presidents to make reorganizations that automatically reverted after wartime, and thus do not count as the authority to make permanent organization changes, which is what presidential reorganization authority is understood to mean.

³ Which was preceded by other public explanations by Secretary Hoover and/or President Hoover

Hoover (1929-33), continued

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) On [June 16, 1932](#), President Hoover accepted a second term presidential nomination for the Republican Party, whose [June 14, 1932 platform](#) stated "We favor legislation by Congress which will give him [the President] the required [reorganization] authority." Further, on Jan. 3, 1933, President Hoover's "[Statement About the Reorganization of the Executive Branch](#)" was in favor of presidential reorganization in that Hoover wanted Congress not to block reorganization and disapproved of their scheme to transf. Furthermore, reorganization was an ongoing issue across and before President Hoover's single term.

On March 3, 1933—one day before FDRoosevelt was inaugurated—the outgoing Hoover signed into law ([Public Law No. 428; 47 Stat. 1489](#)) an amendment (see [47 Stat. 1517](#)) to the Economy Act of 1932 that, per the 2012 Congressional Research Service [report](#) by Hogue, "extended reorganization authority for the benefit of his successor[.]" [See also](#). The underlying bill was H.R. 13520, an appropriations measure that initiated from a House committee (as opposed to being introduced the usual way) on [Dec. 10, 1932](#) (also confirmed by my May 2025 call to the Law Library of Congress, (202) 707-5079; the Senate later agreed to it.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 5 months, 24 days** using Republican platform date ([calculation](#))

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 8.5 months, using Republican platform date ([calculation](#))

FDRoosevelt (1933-45)

0.5 instance (d/n count): Upon Mar. 4, 1933 inauguration, FDR inherited reorg. authority from predecessor; thus couldn't presidentially ask for it in advance. 16 days later, FDR signed *another* bill into law, amending for pres. reorg. authority, described in first instance below.

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) Pres. Roosevelt mentioned reorganization authority—albeit sparingly—during Mar. 8 and Mar. 17, 1933 press conferences ([transcripts](#)). Also, in a Mar. 10, 1933 "[Message to Congress on Economies in Government](#)", FDR said:

"The last Congress enacted legislation relating to the reorganization and elimination of executive agencies, but the economies thus to be effected are small when viewed in the light of the great deficit for the next fiscal year. They will not meet the pressing needs of our credit situation. Provision for additional saving is essential, and therefore I am asking the Congress today for new legislation laying down broad principles for the granting of pensions and other veterans' benefits, and giving to the Executive the authority to prescribe the administrative details."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law) Mar. 20, 1933: FDR [signed](#) the Economy Act amendments of 1933 into law: [48 Stat. 8](#). (See also page 8—PDF page 11—of the Hogue CRS [report](#).) H.R. 2820 was [introduced](#) on Mar. 10, 1933; more importantly, S. 233 was [introduced](#) on Mar 9/10, 1933 (will use Mar. 9, 1933 since it's the more cautious selection).

Time explained/requested [AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill](#)) At least 1 day BUT: inherited sep. reorg.authority 5 days before intro bill
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) At least 12 days

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) Starting in [early 1937](#), President FDR sent Congress messages and proposals regarding reorganization authority. An example is his Jan. 12, 1937 "[Message to Congress recommending reorganization of the executive branch](#)."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority into law) By [Roosevelt signature](#) per Hogue's [report](#), "the Reorganization Act of 1939 was enacted on April 3, 1939": [53 Stat. 561](#). H.R. 4425, [introduced Feb. 23, 1939](#) ([see also](#)); per [CRS](#): "Senator James Byrnes, the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Government Organization and manager of the reorganization legislation [...] asked that the bill be initiated in the House" which happened, leading to a later Senate vote. Meaning House bill was first.

Time explained/requested [AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill](#)) More than 2 years, 1 month
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) Quite a few days more than 2 years, 2 months

Truman (1945-53)

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) On May 24, 1945, President Truman's "[Special Message to the Congress on the Organization of the Executive Branch](#)" included:

"I ask the Congress to enact legislation which will make it possible to do what we all know needs to be done continuously and expeditiously with respect to improving the organization of the Executive Branch [...] In order that the purposes which I have in mind may be understood, the following features are suggested: (a) the legislation should be generally similar to the Reorganization Act of 1939, and part 2 of Title I of that Act should be utilized intact, (b) the legislation should be of permanent duration, (c) no agency of the Executive Branch should be exempted from the scope of the legislation, and (d) the legislation should be sufficiently broad and flexible to permit of any form of organizational adjustment, large or small, for which necessity may arise."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) Dec. 20, 1945, Truman [signed](#) the Reorganization Act of 1945 into [law](#). H.R. 4129 was [introduced Sept. 19, 1945](#); S. 1120 [introduced June 7, 1945](#) by Overton.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 14 days** ([calculation](#))

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) Quite a few days more than six months in advance ([calculation](#)).

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) On Apr. 2, 1948, President Truman "[Letter to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House Concerning the Reorganization Act](#)" stated that "the authority of the President to submit reorganization plans for the consideration of the Congress terminated on March 31, 1948. I believe that the act should be made permanent."⁴

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) Per the 2012 Hogue [report](#), "the reorganization authority [Reorganization Act of 1949, P.L. 81-109; [63 Stat. 203](#)] was enacted on June 20, 1949" by Truman [signature](#). H.R. 1569, [introduced on Jan. 17, 1949](#) by Rep. Dawson morphed, [on Feb. 7, 1949](#), into H.R. 2361; S. 526, introduced [on Jan. 17, 1949](#) by McClellan.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 9.5. months** ([calculation](#)).

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) More than 1 year and 2 months ([calculation](#)).

4 Some of Truman's follow-ups from 1949: On Jan. 17, 1949, President Truman issued his "[Special Message to the Congress Requesting Permanent Reorganization Legislation](#)", which concerns just what its title says. On May 9, 1949 he followed up with another [Special Message](#) on the same theme.

Eisenhower (1953-61)

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) The Republican Party Platform, [dated July 7 1952](#), "pledge[d] a thorough reorganization of the Federal Government in accordance with the principles set forth in the report of the Hoover Commission" (which included recommendations for presidential reorganization authority usages). The platform was essentially accepted by candidate Eisenhower upon [becoming](#) the GOP nominee July 12, 1952; as president, accounts [say](#), he treated the platform almost as "holy writ." In his Feb. 2, 1953 [State of the Union address](#), President Eisenhower "ask[ed] the Congress to extend the present Government Reorganization Act"

However, as President-Elect in late 1952/early 1953, Eisenhower had the Special Advisory Committee on Government Organization, which Congress had knowledge of, as a [Jan. 7, 1953 statement](#) in the Congressional Record by Sen. Ferguson shows. Ferguson⁵ described Eisenhower's committee as an "immediate, short-range study of Government reorganization which President-Elect Eisenhower has set in motion." Given Eisenhower's acceptance of the GOP party platform and its call for / openness toward Hoover Commission-like presidential reorganization, it's fair to say the President-Elect's desire for reorganizational authority definitely encompassed the possibility (even likelihood, eventually a certainty) of pres. reorganization authority, and Congress knew of this in advance by just over 2 weeks.

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) Feb. 11, 1953, President Eisenhower [signed](#) into law reorg. [amendments of 1953](#). Underlying bills were H.R. 1979 [introduced](#) Jan. 22, 1953. There was no Senate companion bill (also corroborated by a librarian I asked who had ProQuest); the [Senate agreed](#) to the House version on Feb. 6, 1953.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS-ELECT in advance of earliest bill) at least:over 2 weeks** btwn Jan.7 Sen.statement, Jan.22 intro bill
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 6 months, 30 days between nomination and signing; 9 days between SOTU and signing

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) Jan. 6, 1955 [State of the Union address](#): President Eisenhower "strongly recommend[ed] extension of the Reorganization Act and the law establishing the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, both of which expire this spring."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) March 25, 1955: Per [CQ Almanac 1955](#), "Public Law 16, signed March 25, extended the President's reorganization authority to April 1, 1958[.]"

Underlying bills and introduction dates) [Per](#), underlying House bill is H.R.2576, [introduced](#) Jan. 20, 1955; underlying Senate bill S. 613 [introduced](#) Jan. 21, 1955.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 2 weeks** (but note that reorg. was an ongoing thing during his two terms)
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) More than two months ([calculation](#)).

5 Sen. Ferguson (R-MI) was introducing a bill related to establishing the Second Hoover Commission.

Eisenhower (1953-1961), continued

Third instance

Public explanation / formal request) President Eisenhower's Apr. 1, 1957 "[Special Message to the Congress Recommending Extension of Period for Transmitting Reorganization Plans](#)" recommended what its title says it recommended.

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) Sept. 4, 1957 Eisenhower [signed](#) P.L. [85-286](#) into law. S. 1791 [introduced Apr. 4, 1957](#); H.R. 8364 [introduced June 25, 1957](#).

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 3 days** (but note: reorg. was ongoing thing during his 2 terms)
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) Just over 5 months

Fourth instance (d/n count, did not receive reorganization powers, asked 5+ days in advance of earliest bill)

N.B.) Eisenhower's 1959 early notifications did not automatically equal transparency in the eyes of then-Rep. John E. Moss (R-UT), known for championing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) through multiple Congressional sessions. As [reported](#) May 18, 1959, Moss pointed out in light of President Eisenhower's February 1959 proposed legislation (discussed below) that his reorganization plan submitted [the week prior](#) stated that

"After investigation, [Eisenhower had] found [...] that each reorganization included in the reorganization plan transmitted herewith is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 2(a) of the Reorganization Act of 1949, as amended" Yet, Moss continued, "What investigation was made is not disclosed" and "How any of these purposes are to be accomplished remains obscure and undisclosed." Moss said the transmitted document amounted to a "thinly veiled assertion of executive superiority and a disavowal of responsible judgment on the part of Congress."

Public explanation / formal request) [Feb. 25, 1959](#): President Eisenhower's Bureau of the Budget⁶ director transmitted to the US House Speaker a proposed bill to delete time limitations on reorganization authority, *i.e.*, to make it permanent. Per the 2012 CRS [report](#) by Hogue, lacking an extension, the authority expired on June 1, 1959. At a July 15, 1959 news conference, President Eisenhower [discussed](#) wanting to do more reorganization plans.

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) N/A; legislation didn't make it through Congress. [Per](#), "The House in 1959 passed a bill (HR 5140) to extend the Act for two years, but the Senate did not vote on a similar bill (S 1474)". HR 5140 introduced Mar. 2, 1959, [per](#). S. 1474 [per](#) "introduced in the Senate [...] on March 19, 1959"

Time explained/requested AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) At least 5 days, [calculation](#). (note: reorg. was ongoing thing during 2 terms)
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) N/A

6 Precursor to OMB

JFKennedy (1961-1963)⁷

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) The [July 11, 1960](#) Democratic party platform said "A first order of business of a Democratic Administration will be a complete re-examination of the organization of our armed forces. A military organization structure, conceived before the revolution in weapons technology, cannot be suitable" for the (then-)present purposes. The platform also mentioned an aim to "reorganize the [space] program to achieve both efficiency and speedy execution. We shall bring top scientists into positions of responsibility." JFK accepted the nomination [July 15, 1960](#), saying in his acceptance speech, among other praise of the platform: "my promises are in the platform that you have adopted." After winning 1960's election, he was inaugurated Jan. 20, 1961. But before that—

On [Sept. 14, 1960](#), as the Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Kennedy [appointed](#) the Symington Committee on the Defense Establishment. It issued a [report](#) on Dec. 5, 1960 to Sen. Kennedy—by this time also now President-Elect Kennedy—with numerous recommendations for significantly reorganizing the military. While unfinished interim material, Symington's report was in the *NYT* [Nov. 20, 1960](#), showing the President-Elect to be involved at least a little as the report's customer conversing (semi-)privately with Symington about it; a day after the publication of Symington's report, the *NYT* covered it again, on [Dec. 6, 1960](#): in this piece, Symington said his "committee was still examining the question of how much of the reorganization plan could be effected by direct action of the President as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and how much would require action by the Congress." A [Dec. 19, 1960](#) Time report quoted President-Elect Kennedy's somewhat bland remark of generic approval portraying Symington's report as "an interesting and constructive study" that both his "incoming administration" and "Congress" would "carefully analyze[.]" A 1980 Congressional Research Service [study](#) states: "Upon entering office, President Kennedy requested reorganization authority."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) Congress's reorganization authority amendments of 1961 were approved by [JFK signature](#) on Apr. 7, 1961 as Public Law 87-18 ([75 Stat. 41](#)), based on [S. 153](#), [introduced on Jan. 5, 1961](#) 15 days before JFK was inaugurated and H.R.5742 introduced by Rep. Fascell [on March 21, 1961](#).

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS-ELECT in advance of earliest bill) 17 days**. S.153 was intro'd while JFK was President-Elect, so fair to time it against the publicity around President-Elect Kennedy's Symington report, which JFK indicated approval of Dec. 19, 1960. Time explained/requested in advance of signing) From platform to signature, 8 months—a few days shy of 9 months ([calculation](#))

Second instance (d/n count, d/n get powers, asked 7+ days ahead of) Per [Hogue 2012](#) "A further two-year extension was requested [...by JFK...] in early 1963 [[in Jan. 1963](#)]. [HR 3496 intro'd in House [Feb. 7, 1963](#)] On June 4, 1963, the House passed the requested extension [...] Senate did not act on the reorganization extension request until after Kennedy's [Nov. 22, 1963] assassination."

⁷In "[Special Message to the Congress on Housing and Community Development](#)" on Mar. 9, 1961 Pres. JFK said he'd soon send Congress a reorg. proposal for "establishment in the Executive Branch of a new, Cabinet-rank Department of Housing and Urban Affairs"

LBJohnson (1963-1969)

N.B. d/n count because inherited legislation upon JFK's assassination) 2012 Hogue [report](#): "Upon taking office [on November 22, 1963], President Lyndon B. Johnson requested Senate consideration of [extending reorganization authority]. The bill [[H.R. 3496](#)], [was introduced Feb. 7, 1963, i.e., during JFK, and it ...] extended the authority to June 1, 1965 [...] was adopted by the Senate on June 19, 1964]": [Public Law 88-351 \(78 Stat. 240\)](#): [signed](#) by LBJ on July 2, 1964. So LBJ couldn't ask in advance of a bill that was introduced during his assassinated predecessor's administration.

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) In his Jan. 25, 1965 "[Annual Budget Message to the Congress, Fiscal Year 1966](#)", President LBJ stated, among other things concerning presidential reorganization authority: "I will ask that permanent reorganization authority be granted to the President to initiate improvements in Government organization, subject to the disapproval of the Congress."⁸

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) LBJ signed into law—signed on June 18, 1965 per Hogue 2012 [report](#)—the amendments of 1965: [Public Law 89-43 \(79 Stat. 135\)](#), based on underlying S. 1135 introduced into Senate [on Feb. 17, 1965](#). The related H.R. 4623 was introduced into the House [on Feb. 9, 1965](#).

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) More than 2 weeks; 15 days** ([calculation](#)).

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) More than four months—approaching five months ([calculation](#)).

⁸ He reiterated his point [on Feb. 3, 1965](#). [See also](#).

Nixon (1969-74)

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) In his Jan. 30, 1969 "[Special Message to the Congress Requesting New Authority To Reorganize the Executive Branch](#)", President Nixon said: "I, therefore, urge that the Congress promptly enact legislation to extend for at least two years the President's authority to transmit reorganization plans."

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) On Mar. 27, 1969, [by signature](#) President Nixon approved [Public Law 91-5: 83 Stat. 6](#). 91st Congress: S. 1058 [introduced on Feb. 18, 1969](#); no related House bill [listed at Congress.gov](#) and on [Mar. 13, 1969](#), a House committee [reported](#) the Senate bill without amendment. So the Senate bill came first.

Time explained/requested [AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill](#)) 19 days ([calculation](#)).

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 1 month, 27 days—almost two months ([calculation](#)).

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) On [Jan. 22, 1971](#), in his State of the Union Address to Congress, Nixon said: "Tonight I shall present to the Congress six great goals. [...] The sixth great goal is a complete reform of the Federal Government itself. Based on a long and intensive study with the aid of the best advice obtainable, I have concluded that a sweeping reorganization of the executive branch is needed if the Government is to keep up with the times and with the needs of the people. I propose, therefore, that we [...]"

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) On Dec. 10, 1971, [by signature](#) President Nixon approved [Public Law 92-179: 85 Stat. 574](#). 92nd Congress: H.R. 6283 [introduced on Mar. 17, 1971](#); no related Senate bill [listed at Congress.gov](#) and originated in House and only [later went to Senate](#).

Time explained/requested [AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill](#)) 1 month, 23 days ([calculation](#)).

Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 10 months, 18 days ([calculation](#)).

Carter (1977-81)

First instance

Public explanation / formal request) In December 1976, President-Elect Jimmy Carter [met](#) with Congressional leaders to discuss reorganization. His public treatment of the topic of streamlining the federal government, etc., was of enough note that in January 1977, the [NYT and CBS ran polls](#) about him and the topic. As President Carter, on Jan. 25, 1977, he met with Democratic congressional leadership to discuss, among other things, reorganization legislation, [per](#) *Public Papers of the Presidents: Carter, James E., Jr. 1977 Book 01*. On Feb. 2, 1977, President Carter stated in his "[Report to the American People - Remarks From the White House Library](#)" that "I also said many times during the campaign that we must reform and reorganize the Federal Government. [...] This week, I will ask the Congress for enabling legislation to let me reorganize the Government [...] passage [...] is absolutely crucial to a successful reorganization effort. So far, news from the Congress, because of their support, is very encouraging."⁹

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) President Carter [by signature](#) approved of [Public Law 95-17: 91 Stat. 29](#) on [Apr. 6, 1977](#); S. 626 was the underlying bill, 'introduced'—technically, referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations as its earliest action—[on Feb. 4, 1977](#). See also: "Even before the House began hearings on reorganization, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Feb. 24 unanimously approved S 626"; the House bills: HR 3131, [introduced on Feb. 7, 1977](#) but never made it out of committee; HR 3407, [introduced on Feb. 9, 1977](#) never made it out of committee; HR 5045, [introduced on March 15, 1977](#) and eventually replaced by the S. 626.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 2 days**—using the Feb. 2, 1977 date to be cautious ([calculation](#)).
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) Just over 2 months—using the Feb. 2, 1977 date to be cautious ([calculation](#)).

⁹ See also: On Feb. 4, 1977, President Carter stated in his "[Reorganization Plan Authority Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation](#)" that "Under the authority I seek to have renewed, the President would again be able to submit reorganization plans to the Congress." See also [his message that same day](#) on that same topic to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and [his remarks that same day](#) on the same topic.

Carter (1977-81) continued

Second instance

Public explanation / formal request) A Feb. 19, 1980 House of Representatives Committee on Administration [report](#) stated that President Carter's "authority to reorganize [under Congressionally granted presidential reorganization authority] expires April 6, 1980" and said that the "Extension of Executive Reorganization Act"—which would become H.R. 6585—was due to be introduced in 1980. Thus, Carter needed the authority renewed in order to continue, through 1980, sending reorg. plans to Congress, several of which he'd already sent in 1979. In his [Jan. 21, 1980](#) State of the Union annual message to Congress, Carter said "I will soon send to Congress a reorganization plan to give the [Nuclear Regulatory Commission] Chairman power to select key personnel and act on behalf of the Commission during an emergency." On [Jan. 28, 1980](#), Carter transmitted to Congress his [FY1981 budget proposal](#), which included the statement that "the President will soon transmit to Congress a reorganization plan to strengthen the internal management and effectiveness of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, increasing the ability of the Commission Chairman to integrate and lead the agency [...]" Under the authority current at this time, per 2012 Hogue [report](#), "The President could amend a plan within 30 days, or withdraw a plan within 60 days, of its submission to Congress." In other words, any potential Carter 1980 reorg. plan¹⁰ had a max period of 60 days from date transmitted before the legislative veto¹¹ would kick in if Congress didn't act on it. 60 days subsequent to Jan. 28, 1980 (earliest conceivable date) was Mar. 28, 1980, only 39 days wiggle room to get a Nuclear Regulatory Commission plan through Congress and signed before any potential legal challenges; Carter OMB official Harrison Wellford, who [ran](#) much of Carter's reorganization efforts, also [pointed out](#) a time constraint problem—the need for Congress to have enough time to consider any reorg. plan—at an Apr. 2, 1980 hearing when pressing the Senate to extend Carter's authority. All this is a longwinded way of saying, when Carter was explaining his ideas for reorg. plans in his Jan. 21-28, 1980 State of the Union message and budget proposal, it was obviously implicit that he'd likely need his authority extended, and in fact, his need was so taken for granted that when the House quickly passed it on Mar. 10, 1980, they did so [under suspension of rules](#), i.e., their procedure typically used for non-controversial items; Carter's reorg. plans in 1979 and 1980 had become relatively routine as far as reorg. plans go. Another way to look at it: The Feb. 19, 1980 House committee report saying extension legislation was due to be introduced shows how routine it was for that legislation to be introduced six days later, so the fact that the Carter admin. wasn't—at the very latest—explicit about needing it till Apr. 2, 1980—when the Senate was still considering the bill—just means that when the renewal process grew 4 days shy of the Apr. 6, 1980 expiration deadline, Wellford had to go over to the Hill to give the Senators kick in the pants.

Signed Congressionally granted reorg. authority/amends into law; underlying bills introduced) President Carter [by signature](#) approved of [Public Law 96-230: 94 Stat. 329](#) on Apr. 8, 1980. 96th Congress H.R. 6585 was underlying, [introduced on Feb. 25, 1980](#); related S. 2458 was introduced—technically, referred to Senate Cmte. on Gov. Affairs—[on March 20, 1980](#). ([See also](#) and [Apr. 2, 1980 Senate hearing](#).)

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS as leg. pending) 6 days b4 signed; arguably ahead of earliest bill) 28 days—from Jan.28,'80 date**
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 2 months, 11 days—from Jan. 28, 1980 date

¹⁰ President Carter eventually did transmit the reorganization plan for the Nuclear Reorganization Commission [on Mar. 27, 1980](#).

¹¹ Later, in 1983, the Supreme Court decided the so-called legislative veto was unconstitutional in the case [INS v. Chadha](#).

Reagan (1981-1989)

N.B.) Per the 2012 Hogue [report](#), "The extension of the Reorganization Act of 1977 under President Jimmy Carter expired on April 7, 1981." So the first order of business for Reagan presidential reorganization authority was to get that renewed. The 97th Congress tried to do so with two bills, both introduced April 1981: [S. 893](#), which died in House subcommittee, and [H.R. 3270](#), which also died in the same House subcommittee. So, the 1981 attempt to renew the authority failed. Then, on June 23, 1983, the Supreme Court decided the so-called legislative veto was unconstitutional in the case [INS v. Chadha](#). Among other amendments to the bill, Congress adjusted [H.R. 1314](#)—introduced Feb. 8, 1983—in response, to change the way Congress passes reorganization plans from allowing legislative veto to specifying a joint resolution of approval by simple majorities. H.R. 1314 also specified that the expiration date for presidential reorganization authority would be December 31, 1984. Since President Reagan signed H.R. 3270 into law on Nov. 8, 1984, that only gave him 54 days with which to use it—except, per the 2012 Hogue [report](#), Congress [adjourned Oct. 12/13, 1984](#), *sine die* (without a date scheduled for reconvening). The law requires Presidents to submit reorganization plans when Congress is in session, meaning that President Reagan had no opportunity to use the briefly granted reorganization authority, unless by some implausible fluke Congress suddenly reconvened, a theoretical possibility history quickly ruled out on Jan. 3, 1985, the date Congress actually reconvened—with the reorganization authority expired. It remains expired as of this writing (May 11, 2025).

Public explanation / formal request) Per the 2012 Hogue [report](#): The Senate bill [S. 893] was introduced [on [Apr. 7, 1981](#)] by Senator William V. Roth, Jr., 'by request.' This designation is often used to identify legislative text that has originated in the Administration. The support of the Reagan Administration for the measure was also reflected in testimony in House and Senate hearings by the Deputy Director of OMB." That was Edwin L. Harper, who on [May 6, 1981 testified](#) to the Senate that "The President does wish to have the reorganization authority called for in S. 893"—but Harper indicated the President would be okay with tweaks and changes to the specifics in S. 893, indicating that they weren't strictly supporting S. 893, but renewal of reorganization authority generally—and it was Joseph R. Wright, Jr., who on [Apr. 12, 1983](#) testified to the House that "the president urges the reorganization authority be renewed".

Signed Congressionally granted reorganization authority/amendments into law; underlying bills introduced) President Reagan by [signature](#) approved [Public Law 98-614: 98 Stat. 3192](#) on Nov. 8, 1984. H.R. 1314 was [introduced Feb. 8, 1983](#) and more than a year later made it over to the Senate, so the House was first by a long mark.

Time explained/requested **AS POTUS in advance of earliest bill) 1 year, 9 months, 2 days** from May 6, 1981 to HR 1314 introduced ([calc](#))
Time explained/requested in advance of signing) 1 year, 9 months ([calculation](#)).