

## DATA Act : Comparison of 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and New Version

**Data standardization:** Both versions of the DATA Act establish government-wide data standards with common data elements. In the old bill, a new entity, the FAST Commission, was responsible for standardizing data. In the new version, the Treasury will establish the data standards in consultation with OMB, GSA, and the heads of federal agencies.

**Public Information:** Both versions of the DATA Act make financial spending data publicly available in an accessible, bulk, machine-readable format. The old DATA Act made the FAST Commission responsible for adapting USASpending.gov to do this. In the new version, Treasury will maintain the improved USASpending.gov.

**Recipient Reporting:** The old DATA Act required recipients of federal awards to report separately on expenditure of funds to the new entity, the FAST Commission, which is extremely costly for recipients of federal funds. **The new version does not create a new reporting requirement or add to the compliance burden for recipients of federal awards.** The new version does conduct a 3-year pilot program to evaluate consolidated reporting and its ability to increase financial transparency and reduce compliance burden on federal fund awardees. The pilot will include recipients that collectively receive more than \$10 billion in federal funds, received funds from multiple agencies, and in the form of contracts, grants, and subawards.

**FAST Commission:** The old DATA Act created the Federal Accountability Spending and Transparency (FAST) Commission, which would have been a continuation of the Recovery Board. The FAST Commission would establish data standards and run a public website. The new version will not create any new entities.

**Recovery Board:** In the old bill, the Recovery Board was replaced by the FAST Commission. In the new version, the Recovery Board will not be replaced, but will continue to review federal spending and collaborate with inspectors general by administering the Recovery Operations Center (ROC). The Recovery Board will also run the consolidated reporting pilot.

**Additional Provisions:** As passed in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, the DATA Act contained language on numerous issues. The new version will be more focused, and does not contain the following: Paperwork Reduction Act, GAO Improvement Act, amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the IG Reform Act of 2008, and conference spending reform.

House-passed DATA Act	New DATA Act
Data standardization, led by FAST Commission	Data standardization, led by Treasury
Data publicly available in machine-readable format, maintained by FAST Commission	Data will be publicly available in machine-readable format, maintained by Treasury
Universal recipient reporting to FAST Commission	No new reporting burden for recipients, Recovery Board will conduct 3-year pilot program on consolidated reporting
New Entity Created (FAST Commission) handled data standardization, website for public access to data, and the ROC	No new entity , Treasury will set data standards and ROC will continue separately
Recovery Board continued, with increased responsibilities	Recovery Board downsizes to run the ROC and will run the consolidated reporting pilot
Contained IG and conference spending reform, Paperwork Reduction, GAO Improvement Act	Will focus on financial transparency and will not contain additional legislation