

The Main Street Capital Access Act (H.R. 6955), also known as the Main Street Act, includes a series of community bank regulatory reforms aimed at tailoring bank regulations, indexing asset thresholds, promoting greater transparency and fairness in supervision, encouraging healthy merger activity, ensuring regulatory accountability, and incentivizing new bank formation. These common-sense reforms would spur economic growth in communities across the country through the promotion of a robust, dynamic banking industry and the effective intermediation of credit for individuals, families, and businesses of all sizes.

Tailoring Bank Regulation and Indexing Asset Thresholds. Prudential regulation and supervision should be tailored based on banks' capital structure, risk profile, complexity, activities, business model, and size. To ensure such tailoring remains meaningful over time, key asset thresholds should also be indexed to economic growth and inflation. Indexing is a low-cost, high-impact, and durable reform that improves transparency and reduces arbitrary regulatory burdens.

New Bank Formation. Incentivizing the creation of new banks is critical to the long-term health of the banking industry nationwide. Bank consolidation is a long-term trend. In fact, there are 4,316 fewer banks in the U.S. now than in 2005. By facilitating the formation of new banks in urban and rural areas, the bill will be a significant step toward expanding banking access for both individuals and small- and medium-sized businesses.

Fair and Transparent Bank Supervision. Ensuring fairness and accountability in the bank examination process, strengthening removal of "reputational risk" as a component of bank supervision, improving the process for institutions to appeal supervisory determinations, and ensuring a prompt review of Material Supervisory Determinations are all important steps that contribute to resilience of the banking sector. The Main Street Act provisions will bring much-needed clarity and transparency to the regulatory process.

Regulatory Accountability and Transparency. The Main Street Act ensures that the cumulative impact of uncoordinated regulatory initiatives, misuse of regulatory guidance by the regulatory agencies, and the opaque activities of global financial regulatory forums don't create arbitrary regulatory burdens that hamper economic growth. The legislation will ensure greater accountability at the federal banking agencies.

Merger Competition and Clarity. Many of the current standards for assessing the competitive impact of mergers are significantly outdated and do not accurately reflect competitive conditions in today's financial services markets. The bill will modernize the bank merger process by eliminating opacity while requiring timely determinations on merger applications.

Recommended Action Items

Ask Congress to Pass H.R. 6955, the Main Street Capital Access Act.

The Main Street Act would properly calibrate the regulatory environment for America's community banks, allowing them to focus on serving families, small businesses, and local economies, making life more affordable for Americans and empowering Main Street.