

Differences in Pentagon Procurement Bills

The House and Senate defense acquisition overhaul bills are similar in many respects, but there are differences that will have to be settled in conference. Below are highlighted differences between the bills on various appointed offices and acquisition policies:

	HOUSE	SENATE
NEW OVERSEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would establish a principal acquisitions adviser to the secretary of Defense for cost estimation oversight. Appointed by the Defense secretary. ◦ Would establish a principal acquisitions adviser to the secretary of Defense for systems engineering oversight. Appointed by the Defense secretary. ◦ Would establish a principal acquisitions adviser to the secretary of Defense for performance assessment oversight. Appointed by the Defense secretary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would establish the Director of Independent Cost Assessment, a principal acquisitions adviser to the secretary for cost estimation and cost analyses. Appointed by the president. ◦ Would establish the Director of Developmental Test Evaluation, a principal acquisitions adviser to the secretary for developmental tests and evaluation. Appointed by the Defense secretary.
ACQUISITION POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would establish a system to track cost growth for major programs before they reach Milestone B, the final decision on whether to go ahead with the project. ◦ Would create additional requirements for troubled major acquisition programs that are granted a waiver by the Milestone Decision Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would require preliminary design review for major acquisition programs to demonstrate that they have a high likelihood of accomplishing their intended missions. ◦ Would require critical design review for major acquisition programs to ensure that they are appropriately mature before they are approved.