

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1501

To require the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to conduct the business of the Committee in a manner that is open to the public.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2011

Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LEE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To require the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to conduct the business of the Committee in a manner that is open to the public.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. TRANSPARENCY.**

4 Section 401(b)(5) of the Budget Control Act of 2011  
5 is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (E)—

7 (A) in clause (ii), by inserting “and make  
8 the agenda available to the public” after “meet-  
9 ing”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(iii) OPEN MEETINGS.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as  
4 provided in subclause (II), each meet-  
5 ing, including a quorum of members,  
6 of the joint committee shall be—

7 “(aa) made open to the pub-  
8 lic; and

9 “(bb) made available for tel-  
10 evision coverage.

11 “(II) EXCEPTION.—The joint  
12 committee may conduct a closed meet-  
13 ing for the purpose of discussing clas-  
14 sified information.”; and

15 (2) in subparagraph (F)(ii), by adding at the  
16 end the following:

17 “(III) OPEN HEARINGS.—

18 “(aa) IN GENERAL.—Except  
19 as provided in item (bb), any  
20 hearing conducted by the joint  
21 committee shall be—

22 “(AA) made open to  
23 the public; and

24 “(BB) made available  
25 for television coverage.

1                   “(bb)       EXCEPTION.—The  
2                   joint committee may conduct a  
3                   closed hearing for the purpose of  
4                   discussing   classified   informa-  
5                   tion.”.

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