

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 499

To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

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## A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Government Shutdown  
5       Prevention Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United  
8       States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310  
9       the following new section:

1 **“§ 1311. Continuing appropriations**

2       “(a)(1) On and after the first day of each fiscal year,  
 3 if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect  
 4 to the account for a program, project, or activity has not  
 5 been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in ef-  
 6 fect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there  
 7 are appropriated, at the rate for operations specified in  
 8 paragraph (2), such sums as may be necessary to continue  
 9 the program, project, or activity if funds were provided  
 10 for the program, project, or activity during the preceding  
 11 fiscal year—

12               “(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for  
 13 such preceding fiscal year; or

14               “(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for  
 15 such preceding fiscal year did not become law, in a  
 16 law making continuing appropriations for such pre-  
 17 ceding fiscal year.

18       “(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (C), appropriations  
 19 and funds made available, and authority granted, for a  
 20 program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant  
 21 to this section shall be at a rate of operations not in excess  
 22 of the lower of—

23               “(i) 94 percent of the rate of operations pro-  
 24 vided for in the regular appropriation Act providing  
 25 for such program, project, or activity for the pre-  
 26 ceding fiscal year;

1           “(ii) in the absence of such an Act, 94 percent  
2           of the rate of operations provided for such program,  
3           project, or activity pursuant to a law making con-  
4           tinuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year;  
5           or

6           “(iii) 94 percent of the annualized rate of oper-  
7           ations provided for in the most recently enacted law  
8           making continuing appropriations for part of that  
9           fiscal year or any funding levels established under  
10          the provisions of this section,

11       for the period of 90 days. After the first 90-day period  
12       during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal  
13       year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by  
14       1 percentage point. For each subsequent 90-day period  
15       during which this subsection is in effect for that fiscal  
16       year, the applicable rate of operations shall be reduced by  
17       1 percentage point. The 90-day period reductions shall ex-  
18       tend beyond the last day of that fiscal year.

19       “(B) If this section is in effect at the end of a fiscal  
20       year, funding levels shall continue as provided in this sec-  
21       tion for the next fiscal year.

22       “(C) For entitlements and other mandatory pay-  
23       ments whose budget authority was provided for the pre-  
24       vious fiscal year in appropriations Acts, under a law other  
25       than this section providing continuing appropriations for

1 such previous year, or under this section, and for activities  
2 under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, appropriations  
3 and funds made available during a fiscal year under this  
4 section shall be at the rate necessary to maintain program  
5 levels under current law, under the authority and condi-  
6 tions provided in the applicable appropriations Act.

7 “(3) Appropriations and funds made available, and  
8 authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this sec-  
9 tion for a program, project, or activity shall be available  
10 for the period beginning with the first day of a lapse in  
11 appropriations and ending with the date on which the ap-  
12 plicable regular appropriation bill for such fiscal year be-  
13 comes law (whether or not such law provides for such pro-  
14 gram, project, or activity) or a continuing resolution mak-  
15 ing appropriations becomes law, as the case may be.

16 “(4) During any period during which amounts are  
17 being made available under this section, the head of each  
18 agency, office, or other establishment to which such  
19 amounts are being made available shall apportion such  
20 amounts in the same proportion as amounts made avail-  
21 able to the agency, office, or other establishment were ap-  
22 portioned during the previous fiscal year.

23 “(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or au-  
24 thority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any  
25 fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the

1 terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appro-  
2 priation made or funds made available for the preceding  
3 fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project,  
4 or activity under current law.

5       “(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-  
6 tion, for those programs, projects, or activities that would  
7 otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete  
8 distribution of appropriations at the beginning of a fiscal  
9 year for which funding is made available under this section  
10 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign coun-  
11 tries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of oper-  
12 ation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no  
13 grants shall be awarded for such programs, projects, or  
14 activities funded by this section that would impinge on  
15 final funding prerogatives.

16       “(d) Expenditures made for a program, project, or  
17 activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall  
18 be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or au-  
19 thorization whenever a regular appropriation bill or a  
20 measure making continuing appropriations until the end  
21 of a fiscal year providing for such program, project, or  
22 activity for such period becomes law.

23       “(e) This section shall not apply to a program,  
24 project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provi-

1 sion of law (other than an authorization of appropria-  
 2 tions)—

3 “(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds  
 4 available, or grants authority for such program,  
 5 project, or activity to continue for such period; or

6 “(2) specifically provides that no appropriation  
 7 shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or  
 8 no authority shall be granted for such program,  
 9 project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 11 of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended  
 12 by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the  
 13 following new item:

“1311. Continuing appropriations.”.

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