

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 126

To establish procedures to provide for a deficit reduction lock-box and related downward adjustment of discretionary spending limits.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GOSS, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Ms. MOLINARI, Ms. DUNN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. McKEON, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. KLUG, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. WHITE, and Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish procedures to provide for a deficit reduction lock-box and related downward adjustment of discretionary spending limits.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Deficit Reduction  
3 Lock-box Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFICIT REDUCTION LOCK-BOX LEDGER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF LEDGER.—Title III of the  
6 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding  
7 at the end the following new section:

8 “DEFICIT REDUCTION LOCK-BOX LEDGER

9 “SEC. 314. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF LEDGER.—The  
10 Director of the Congressional Budget Office (hereinafter  
11 in this section referred to as the “Director”) shall main-  
12 tain a ledger to be known as the “Deficit Reduction Lock-  
13 box Ledger”. The Ledger shall be divided into entries cor-  
14 responding to the subcommittees of the Committees on  
15 Appropriations. Each entry shall consist of three parts:  
16 the ‘House Lock-box Balance’; the ‘Senate Lock-box Bal-  
17 ance’; and the ‘Joint House-Senate Lock-box Balance’.

18 “(b) COMPONENTS OF LEDGER.—Each component in  
19 an entry shall consist only of amounts credited to it under  
20 subsection (c). No entry of a negative amount shall be  
21 made.

22 “(c) CREDIT OF AMOUNTS TO LEDGER.—(1) The Di-  
23 rector shall, upon the engrossment of any appropriation  
24 bill by the House of Representatives and upon the engross-  
25 ment of that bill by the Senate, credit to the applicable

1 entry balance of that House amounts of new budget au-  
 2 thority and outlays equal to the net amounts of reductions  
 3 in new budget authority and in outlays resulting from  
 4 amendments agreed to by that House to that bill.

5 “(2) The Director shall, upon the engrossment of  
 6 Senate amendments to any appropriation bill, credit to the  
 7 applicable Joint House-Senate Lock-box Balance the  
 8 amounts of new budget authority and outlays equal to—

9 “(A) an amount equal to one-half of the sum of  
 10 (i) the amount of new budget authority in the House  
 11 Lock-box Balance plus (ii) the amount of new budg-  
 12 et authority in the Senate Lock-box Balance for that  
 13 bill; and

14 “(B) an amount equal to one-half of the sum  
 15 of (i) the amount of outlays in the House Lock-box  
 16 Balance plus (ii) the amount of outlays in the Sen-  
 17 ate Lock-box Balance for that bill.

18 “(3) CALCULATION OF LOCK-BOX SAVINGS IN SEN-  
 19 ATE.—For purposes of calculating under this section the  
 20 net amounts of reductions in new budget authority and  
 21 in outlays resulting from amendments agreed to by the  
 22 Senate on an appropriation bill, the amendments reported  
 23 to the Senate by its Committee on Appropriations shall  
 24 be considered to be part of the original text of the bill.

1       “(d) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
 2 ‘appropriation bill’ means any general or special appro-  
 3 priation bill, and any bill or joint resolution making sup-  
 4 plemental, deficiency, or continuing appropriations  
 5 through the end of a fiscal year.”.

6       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
 7 tents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget  
 8 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by in-  
 9 serting after the item relating to section 313 the following  
 10 new item:

“Sec. 314. Deficit reduction lock-box ledger.”.

11 **SEC. 3. TALLY DURING HOUSE CONSIDERATION.**

12       There shall be available to Members in the House of  
 13 Representatives during consideration of any appropria-  
 14 tions bill by the House a running tally of the amendments  
 15 adopted reflecting increases and decreases of budget au-  
 16 thority in the bill as reported.

17 **SEC. 4. DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT OF 602(a) ALLOCATIONS**  
 18 **AND SECTION 602(b) SUBALLOCATIONS.**

19       (a) ALLOCATIONS.—Section 602(a) of the Congres-  
 20 sional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the  
 21 end the following new paragraph:

22               “(5) Upon the engrossment of Senate amend-  
 23 ments to any appropriation bill (as defined in section  
 24 314(d)) for a fiscal year, the amounts allocated

1 under paragraph (1) or (2) to the Committee on Ap-  
2 propriations of each House upon the adoption of the  
3 most recent concurrent resolution on the budget for  
4 that fiscal year shall be adjusted downward by the  
5 amounts credited to the applicable Joint House-Sen-  
6 ate Lock-box Balance under section 314(c)(2). The  
7 revised levels of budget authority and outlays shall  
8 be submitted to each House by the chairman of the  
9 Committee on the Budget of that House and shall  
10 be printed in the Congressional Record.”.

11 (b) SUBALLOCATIONS.—Section 602(b)(1) of the  
12 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding  
13 at the end the following new sentence: “Whenever an ad-  
14 justment is made under subsection (a)(5) to an allocation  
15 under that subsection, the chairman of the Committee on  
16 Appropriations of each House shall make downward ad-  
17 justments in the most recent suballocations of new budget  
18 authority and outlays under subparagraph (A) to the ap-  
19 propriate subcommittees of that committee in the total  
20 amounts of those adjustments under section 314(c)(2).  
21 The revised suballocations shall be submitted to each  
22 House by the chairman of the Committee on Appropria-  
23 tions of that House and shall be printed in the Congres-  
24 sional Record.”.

1 **SEC. 5. PERIODIC REPORTING OF LEDGER STATEMENTS.**

2 Section 308(b)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act  
3 of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following  
4 new sentence: “Such reports shall also include an up-to-  
5 date tabulation of the amounts contained in the ledger and  
6 each entry established by section 314(a).”.

7 **SEC. 6. DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT OF DISCRETIONARY**  
8 **SPENDING LIMITS.**

9 The discretionary spending limits for new budget au-  
10 thority and outlays for any fiscal year set forth in section  
11 601(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as  
12 adjusted in strict conformance with section 251 of the Bal-  
13 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985,  
14 shall be reduced by the amounts set forth in the final regu-  
15 lar appropriation bill for that fiscal year or joint resolution  
16 making continuing appropriations through the end of that  
17 fiscal year. Those amounts shall be the sums of the Joint  
18 House-Senate Lock-box Balances for that fiscal year, as  
19 calculated under section 602(a)(5) of the Congressional  
20 Budget Act of 1974. That bill or joint resolution shall con-  
21 tain the following statement of law: “As required by sec-  
22 tion 6 of the Deficit Reduction Lock-box Act of 1997, for  
23 fiscal year [insert appropriate fiscal year] and each out-  
24 year, the adjusted discretionary spending limit for new  
25 budget authority shall be reduced by \$ [insert appropriate  
26 amount of reduction] and the adjusted discretionary limit

1 for outlays shall be reduced by \$ [insert appropriate  
2 amount of reduction] for the budget year and each out-  
3 year.” Notwithstanding section 904(c) of the Congres-  
4 sional Budget Act of 1974, section 306 of that Act as it  
5 applies to this statement shall be waived. This adjustment  
6 shall be reflected in reports under sections 254(g) and  
7 254(h) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit  
8 Control Act of 1985.

9 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall apply to all appro-  
11 priation bills making appropriations for fiscal year 1998  
12 or any subsequent fiscal year.

13 (b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
14 “appropriation bill” means any general or special appro-  
15 priation bill, and any bill or joint resolution making sup-  
16 plemental, deficiency, or continuing appropriations  
17 through the end of a fiscal year.

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