

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 537

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for budgeting for emergencies through the establishment of a budget reserve account, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 1999

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. MINGE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. GREENWOOD) 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

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for budgeting for emergencies through the establishment of a budget reserve account, and for other purposes.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET RESERVE AC-**
2 **COUNT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—A budget reserve account
4 (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “account”)
5 shall be established for the purpose of setting aside ade-
6 quate funding for natural disasters and national security
7 emergencies.

8 (b) PRIOR APPROPRIATION REQUIRED.—The ac-
9 count shall consist of such sums as may be provided in
10 advance in appropriation Acts for a particular fiscal year.

11 (c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—(1) Notwith-
12 standing any other provision of law, the amounts in the
13 account shall not be available for other than emergency
14 funding requirements for particular natural disasters or
15 national security emergencies so designated by Acts of
16 Congress.

17 (2) Funds in the account that are not obligated dur-
18 ing the fiscal year for which they are appropriated may
19 only be used for deficit reduction purposes.

20 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS CHANGES.**

21 (a) CONTENTS OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON
22 THE BUDGET.—Section 301(a) of the Congressional
23 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by redesignating para-
24 graphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively,
25 and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new
26 paragraph:

1 “(6) total new budget authority and total
2 budget outlays for emergency funding requirements
3 for natural disasters and national security emer-
4 gencies to be included in a budget reserve account;”.

5 (b) SECTION 302 ALLOCATIONS.—Section 302 of the
6 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding
7 at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(h) COMMITTEE SPENDING ALLOCATIONS AND SUB-
9 ALLOCATIONS FOR BUDGET RESERVE ACCOUNT.—

10 “(1) ALLOCATIONS.—The joint explanatory
11 statement accompanying a conference report on a
12 budget resolution shall include allocations, consistent
13 with the resolution recommended in the conference
14 report, of the appropriate levels (for each fiscal year
15 covered by that resolution) of total new budget au-
16 thority and outlays to the Committee on Appropria-
17 tions of each House for emergency funding require-
18 ments for natural disasters and national security
19 emergencies to be included in a budget reserve
20 account.

21 “(2) SUBALLOCATIONS.—As soon as practicable
22 after a budget resolution is agreed to, the Commit-
23 tee on Appropriations of each House (after consult-
24 ing with the Committee on Appropriations of the
25 other House) shall suballocate each amount allocated

1 to it for the budget year under paragraph (1) among
2 its subcommittees. Each Committee on Appropria-
3 tions shall promptly report to its House suballoca-
4 tions made or revised under this paragraph.”.

5 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF ADJUSTMENT FOR EMERGENCY APPRO-**
6 **PRIATIONS.**

7 Section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and
8 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is repealed.

9 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

10 Not later than November 30, 2000, and at annual
11 intervals thereafter, the Director of the Office of Manage-
12 ment and Budget shall submit a report to each House of
13 Congress listing the amounts of money expended from the
14 budget reserve account established under section 1 for the
15 fiscal year ending during that calendar year for each natu-
16 ral disaster and national security emergency.

17 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 This Act and the amendments made by it shall apply
19 to fiscal year 2000 and subsequent fiscal years.

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