

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 127

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to preserve all budget surpluses until legislation is enacted significantly extending the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Mr. HOLT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 preserve all budget surpluses until legislation is enacted significantly extending the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

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 “Social Security and
5 Medicare Lock-box Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to put social security
3 and Medicare solvency first, by prohibiting the use of so-
4 cial security surpluses, Medicare surpluses, and any other
5 government surpluses for any purpose other than paying
6 down publicly held debt, until legislation is enacted signifi-
7 cantly extending the solvency of the social security and
8 Medicare trust funds.

9 **SEC. 3. SURPLUSES RESERVED UNTIL SOCIAL SECURITY**
10 **AND MEDICARE SOLVENCY LEGISLATION IS**
11 **ENACTED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of the Congressional
13 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the
14 following new subsection:

15 “(g) SURPLUSES RESERVED UNTIL SOCIAL SECU-
16 RITY AND MEDICARE SOLVENCY LEGISLATION IS EN-
17 ACTED.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Until there is both a social
19 security solvency certification and a Medicare sol-
20 vency certification, it shall not be in order in the
21 House of Representatives or the Senate to con-
22 sider—

23 “(A) any concurrent resolution on the
24 budget, or conference report thereon or amend-
25 ment thereto, that would use any portion of the
26 baseline budget surpluses, or

1 “(B) any bill, joint resolution, amendment,
2 motion, or conference report if—

3 “(i) the enactment of that bill or reso-
4 lution as reported,

5 “(ii) the adoption and enactment of
6 that amendment, or

7 “(iii) the enactment of that bill or res-
8 olution in the form recommended in that
9 conference report,
10 would use any portion of the baseline budget
11 surpluses.

12 “(2) BASELINE BUDGET SURPLUSES.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
14 subsection, the term ‘baseline budget surplus’
15 means the sum of the on- and off-budget sur-
16 pluses contained in the most recent baseline
17 budget projections made by the Congressional
18 Budget Office at the beginning of the annual
19 budget cycle and no later than the month of
20 March.

21 “(B) BASELINE BUDGET PROJECTION.—
22 For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term
23 ‘baseline budget projection’ means the projec-
24 tion described in section 257 of the Balanced
25 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of

1 1985 of current year levels of outlays, receipts,
2 and the surplus or deficit into the budget year
3 and future years; except that outlays for pro-
4 grams subject to discretionary appropriations
5 shall be projected at the lesser of any applicable
6 statutory discretionary limits or the baseline
7 level otherwise defined in such section 257. For
8 purposes of this subsection, the baseline budget
9 projection shall include both on-budget and off-
10 budget outlays and receipts.

11 “(3) USE OF PORTION OF THE BASELINE
12 BUDGET SURPLUSES.—For purposes of this sub-
13 section, a portion of the baseline budget surpluses is
14 used if, relative to the baseline budget projection—

15 “(A) in the case of legislation affecting
16 revenues, any net reduction in revenues in the
17 current year or the budget year, or over the 5
18 or 10-year estimating periods beginning with
19 the budget year, is not offset by reductions in
20 direct spending,

21 “(B) in the case of legislation affecting di-
22 rect spending, any net increase in direct spend-
23 ing in the current year or the budget year, or
24 over such 5 or 10-year periods, is not offset by
25 increases in revenues, and

1 “(C) in the case of an appropriations bill,
2 there is a net increase in discretionary outlays
3 in the current year or the budget year when the
4 discretionary outlays from such bill are added
5 to the discretionary outlays from all previously
6 enacted appropriations bills.

7 “(4) SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY CERTIFI-
8 CATION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
9 ‘social security solvency certification’ means a cer-
10 tification by the Board of Trustees of the Social Se-
11 curity Trust Funds that the Federal Old-Age and
12 Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal
13 Disability Insurance Trust Fund are, taken to-
14 gether, in actuarial balance for the 75-year period
15 utilized in the most recent annual report of such
16 Board of Trustees pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of
17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2)).

18 “(5) MEDICARE SOLVENCY CERTIFICATION.—
19 For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘Medicare
20 solvency certification’ means a certification by the
21 Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance
22 Trust Fund that such Trust Fund is in actuarial
23 balance for the 30-year period utilized in the most
24 recent annual report of such Board of Trustees pur-
25 suant to section 1817(b) of the Social Security Act.”

1 (b) SUPER MAJORITY REQUIREMENT.—(1) Section
2 904(c)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is
3 amended by inserting “312(g),” after “310(d)(2),”.

4 (2) Section 904(d)(2) of the Congressional Budget
5 Act of 1974 is amended by inserting “312(g),” after
6 “310(d)(2),”.

7 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This Act shall take effect upon the date of its enact-
9 ment and the amendments made by it shall apply only to
10 fiscal year 2003 and subsequent fiscal years.

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