

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4699

To facilitate Presidential leadership and Congressional accountability
regarding reduction of spending.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE) 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 facilitate Presidential leadership and Congressional
accountability regarding reduction of spending.

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 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Stimulating Leadership in Cutting Expenditures Act (or
6 SLICE Act) of 2006”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Congressional Budget Office has pro-
2 jected that unless current laws and policies are
3 changed federal expenditures will exceed revenues
4 during and after fiscal year 2007, which will require
5 the government to borrow funds to offset these defi-
6 cits;

7 (2) substantial federal appropriations will con-
8 tinue to be required for ongoing costs of national de-
9 fense and homeland security, as well as for other ur-
10 gent purposes;

11 (3) rescinding previously-mandated spending on
12 lower-priority items would help reduce the extent to
13 which such necessary appropriations for urgent pur-
14 poses would require increases in the national debt
15 that must be repaid, with interest, in the future; and

16 (4) however, under current law, while the Presi-
17 dent can propose rescinding such spending, the Con-
18 gress is not required to act on any such proposals
19 by the President.

20 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to enable
21 the President to require Congress to debate and vote on
22 certain presidential proposals for reducing spending.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PRO-**
2 **POSED SPENDING REDUCTIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title X of the Congres-
4 sional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2
5 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) is amended by redesignating sections
6 1013 through 1017 as sections 1014 through 1018, re-
7 spectively, and inserting after section 1012 the following
8 new section:

9 “EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PROPOSED
10 RESCISSIONS

11 “SEC. 1013. (a) PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGET
12 AUTHORITY.—In addition to the method of rescinding
13 budget authority specified in section 1012, the President
14 may propose the rescission of any budget authority pro-
15 vided in Public Law 109-59 or in an appropriation Act.
16 Funds made available for obligation under this procedure
17 may not be proposed for rescission again under this sec-
18 tion or section 1012.

19 “(b) TRANSMITTAL OF SPECIAL MESSAGE.—

20 “(1) PROPOSED RESCISSIONS OF TRANSPOR-
21 TATION PROJECTS.—

22 “(A) The President may transmit to Con-
23 gress a special message proposing to rescind
24 amounts of budget authority provided in the
25 Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
26 (Public Law 109–59).

1 “(B) A special message transmitted pursu-
2 ant to this subsection shall be accompanied by
3 a draft bill each section of which would affect
4 only the specific project or purpose specified in
5 such section.

6 “(2) PROPOSED RESCISSIONS IN APPROPRIA-
7 TION ACTS.—

8 “(A) the President may transmit to Con-
9 gress a special message proposing to rescind
10 amounts of budget authority provided in an ap-
11 propriation Act and include with that special
12 message a draft bill each section of which, if en-
13 acted, would only rescind the amount of budget
14 authority specified in such section. That bill
15 shall clearly identify the amount of budget au-
16 thority that is proposed to be rescinded for each
17 program, project, or activity to which that
18 budget authority relates.

19 “(B) If a special message transmitted pur-
20 suant to this subsection proposes to rescind
21 budget authority included in an appropriation
22 Act that includes accounts within the jurisdic-
23 tion of more than one subcommittee of the
24 Committee on Appropriations, the President
25 shall send a draft bill that separates the pro-

1 posed rescissions from accounts within the ju-
2 risdiction of each such subcommittee.

3 “(C) Each special message shall specify,
4 with respect to the budget authority proposed
5 to be rescinded, the matters referred to in para-
6 graphs (1) through (5) of section 1012(a).

7 “(c) PROCEDURES FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDER-
8 ATION.—

9 “(1)(A) Before the close of the second legisla-
10 tive day of the House of Representatives after the
11 date of receipt of a special message transmitted to
12 Congress under subsection (b), the majority leader
13 or minority leader of the House of Representatives
14 shall introduce (by request) the draft bill accom-
15 panying that special message. If the bill is not intro-
16 duced as provided in the preceding sentence, then,
17 on the third legislative day of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives after the date of receipt of that special
19 message, any Member of that House may introduce
20 the bill.

21 “(B) A bill affecting Public Law 109-59 shall
22 be referred to the Committee on Transportation and
23 Infrastructure and a bill to rescind budgetary au-
24 thority included in an appropriation Act shall be re-
25 ferred to the Committee on Appropriations of the

1 House of Representatives. The committee of referral
2 shall report the bill without substantive revision, and
3 with or without recommendation. The bill shall be
4 reported not later than the seventh legislative day of
5 that House after the date of receipt of that special
6 message. If the Committee of referral fails to report
7 the bill within that period, that committee shall be
8 automatically discharged from consideration of the
9 bill, and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate
10 calendar.

11 “(C) A separate vote on each section and, if
12 any section is approved, on final passage of a bill re-
13 ferred to in subparagraph (B) shall be taken in the
14 House of Representatives on or before the close of
15 the 10th legislative day of that House after the date
16 of the introduction of the bill in that House. If the
17 bill is passed, the Clerk of the House of Representa-
18 tives shall cause the bill to be engrossed, certified,
19 and transmitted to the Senate within one calendar
20 day of the day on which the bill is passed.

21 “(2)(A) A motion in the House of Representa-
22 tives to proceed to the consideration of a bill under
23 this section shall be highly privileged and not debat-
24 able. An amendment to the motion shall not be in
25 order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider

1 the vote by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
2 agreed to.

3 “(B) Debate in the House of Representatives
4 on each section of a bill under this section shall not
5 exceed one hour and debate on such bill shall not ex-
6 ceed 4 hours, in each case with such time being di-
7 vided equally between those favoring and those op-
8 posing the section or final passage of the bill. A mo-
9 tion further to limit debate shall not be debatable.
10 It shall not be in order to move to recommit a bill
11 under this section or to move to reconsider the vote
12 by which the bill is agreed to or disagreed to.

13 “(C) Appeals from decisions of the Chair relat-
14 ing to the application of the Rules of the House of
15 Representatives to the procedure relating to a bill
16 under this section shall be decided without debate.

17 “(3)(A) A bill transmitted to the Senate pursu-
18 ant to paragraph (1)(C) shall be referred to the ap-
19 propriate committee. The committee shall report the
20 bill without substantive revision and with or without
21 recommendation. The bill shall be reported not later
22 than the seventh legislative day of the Senate after
23 it receives the bill. A committee failing to report the
24 bill within such period shall be automatically dis-

1 charged from consideration of the bill, and the bill
2 shall be placed upon the appropriate calendar.

3 “(B) A separate vote on each section and on
4 final passage of a bill transmitted to the Senate
5 shall be taken on or before the close of the 10th leg-
6 islative day of the Senate after the date on which
7 the bill is transmitted.

8 “(4)(A) A motion in the Senate to proceed to
9 the consideration of a bill under this section shall be
10 privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the
11 motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order
12 to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion
13 is agreed to or disagreed to.

14 “(B) Debate in the Senate on a bill under this
15 section, and all debatable motions and appeals in
16 connection therewith, shall not exceed 10 hours. The
17 time shall be equally divided between, and controlled
18 by, the majority leader and the minority leader or
19 their designees.

20 “(C) Debate in the Senate on any debatable
21 motion or appeal in connection with a bill under this
22 section shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, to
23 be equally divided between, and controlled by, the
24 mover and the manager of the bill, except that in
25 the event the manager of the bill is in favor of any

1 such motion or appeal, the time in opposition there-
2 to, shall be controlled by the minority leader or his
3 designee. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from
4 time under their control on the passage of a bill,
5 allot additional time to any Senator during the con-
6 sideration of any debatable motion or appeal.

7 “(D) A motion in the Senate to further limit
8 debate on a bill under this section is not debatable.
9 A motion to recommit a bill under this section is not
10 in order.

11 “(d) AMENDMENTS AND DIVISIONS PROHIBITED.—
12 No amendment to a bill considered under this section shall
13 be in order in either the House of Representatives or the
14 Senate. It shall not be in order to demand a division of
15 the question in the House of Representatives (or in a Com-
16 mittee of the Whole) or in the Senate. No motion to sus-
17 pend the application of this subsection shall be in order
18 in either House, nor shall it be in order in either House
19 to suspend the application of this subsection by unanimous
20 consent.

21 “(e) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR OBLI-
22 GATION.—Any amount of budget authority proposed to be
23 rescinded in a special message transmitted to Congress
24 under subsection (b) shall be made available for obligation
25 on the earlier of—

1 “(1) the day after the date upon which the
2 House of Representatives defeats the section of a bill
3 transmitted with that special message rescinding the
4 amount proposed to be rescinded; or

5 “(2) the day after the date upon which the Sen-
6 ate rejects the relevant section of a bill that makes
7 rescissions to carry out the applicable special mes-
8 sage of the President.

9 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

10 “(1) the term ‘appropriation Act’ means any
11 general or special appropriation Act, and any Act or
12 joint resolution making supplemental, deficiency, or
13 continuing appropriations; and

14 “(2) the term ‘legislative day’ means, with re-
15 spect to either House of Congress, any calendar day
16 during which that House is in session.”.

17 (b) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.—Section
18 904 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 621 note) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “and 1017” in subsection (a)
20 and inserting “1013, and 1018”; and

21 (2) by striking “section 1017” in subsection (d)
22 and inserting “sections 1013 and 1018”.

23 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 1011
24 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 682(5)) is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “1013” and
2 inserting “1014”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (5)—

4 (i) by striking “1016” and inserting
5 “1017”; and

6 (ii) by striking “1017(b)(1)” and inserting
7 “1018(b)(1)”.

8 (2) Section 1015 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 685) (as re-
9 designated by section 2(a)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “1012 or 1013” each place it
11 appears and inserting “1012, 1013, or 1014”;

12 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “1012”
13 and inserting “1012 or 1013”;

14 (C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “1013”
15 and inserting “1014”; and

16 (D) in subsection (e)(2)—

17 (i) by striking ‘and’ at the end of subpara-
18 graph (A);

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
20 subparagraph (C);

21 (iii) by striking “1013” in subparagraph
22 (C) (as so redesignated) and inserting “1014”;
23 and

24 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
25 the following new subparagraph:

1 “(B) he has transmitted a special message
2 under section 1013 with respect to a proposed
3 rescission; and”.

4 (3) Section 1016 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 686) (as re-
5 designated by section 2(a)) is amended by striking “1012
6 or 1013” each place it appears and inserting “1012, 1013,
7 or 1014”.

8 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections
9 for subpart B of title X of such Act is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
11 tions 1013 through 1017 as items relating to sec-
12 tions 1014 through 1018; and

13 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
14 tion 1012 the following new item:

“Sec. 1013. Expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions.”.

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