

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 595

To provide for expedited rescissions of budget authority.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) 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 provide for expedited rescissions of budget authority.

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, FINDINGS, AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Stimulating Leadership in Limiting Expenditures (or
6 ‘SLICE’) Act of 2007”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Congressional Budget Office has pro-
9 jected that unless current laws and policies are
10 changed Federal expenditures will exceed revenues

1 during and after fiscal year 2007, which will require
2 the Government to borrow funds to offset these defi-
3 cits;

4 (2) substantial Federal appropriations will con-
5 tinue to be required for ongoing costs of national de-
6 fense and homeland security, as well as for other ur-
7 gent purposes;

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 2. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PRO-**
21 **POSED RESCISSIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title X of the Congres-
23 sional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2
24 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) is amended by redesignating sections
25 1013 through 1017 as sections 1014 through 1018, re-

1 spectively, and inserting after section 1012 the following
2 new section:

3 **“SEC. 1013. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PRO-**
4 **POSED RESCISSIONS.**

5 “(a) PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGET AUTHOR-
6 ITY.—In addition to the method of rescinding budget au-
7 thority specified in section 1012, the President may pro-
8 pose, at the time and in the manner provided in subsection
9 (b), the rescission of any budget authority provided in an
10 appropriation Act. Funds made available for obligation
11 under this procedure may not be proposed for rescission
12 again under this section or section 1012.

13 “(b) TRANSMITTAL OF SPECIAL MESSAGE.—

14 “(1) Not later than 3 calendar days after the
15 date of enactment of an appropriation Act, the
16 President may transmit to Congress one special mes-
17 sage proposing to rescind amounts of budget author-
18 ity provided in that Act and include with that special
19 message a draft bill that, if enacted, would only re-
20 scind that budget authority. That bill shall clearly
21 identify the amount of budget authority that is pro-
22 posed to be rescinded for each program, project, or
23 activity to which that budget authority relates.

24 “(2) In the case of an appropriation Act that
25 includes accounts within the jurisdiction of more

1 than one subcommittee of the Committee on Appro-
2 priations, the President in proposing to rescind
3 budget authority under this section shall send a sep-
4 arate special message and accompanying draft bill
5 for accounts within the jurisdiction of each such sub-
6 committee.

7 “(3) Each special message shall specify, with
8 respect to the budget authority proposed to be re-
9 scinded, the matters referred to in paragraphs (1)
10 through (5) of section 1012(a).

11 “(c) PROCEDURES FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDER-
12 ATION.—

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

1 “(B) The bill shall be referred to the Com-
2 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
3 atives. The Committee shall report the bill without
4 substantive revision and with or without rec-
5 ommendation. The bill shall be reported not later
6 than the seventh legislative day of that House after
7 the date of receipt of that special message. If the
8 Committee on Appropriations fails to report the bill
9 within that period, that committee shall be auto-
10 matically discharged from consideration of the bill,
11 and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate cal-
12 endar.

13 “(C) A vote on final passage of the bill referred
14 to in subparagraph (B) shall be taken in the House
15 of Representatives on or before the close of the 10th
16 legislative day of that House after the date of the
17 introduction of the bill in that House. If the bill is
18 passed, the Clerk of the House of Representatives
19 shall cause the bill to be engrossed, certified, and
20 transmitted to the Senate within one calendar day of
21 the day on which the bill is passed.

22 “(2)(A) A motion in the House of Representa-
23 tives to proceed to the consideration of a bill under
24 this section shall be highly privileged and not debat-
25 able. An amendment to the motion shall not be in

1 order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider
2 the vote by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
3 agreed to.

4 “(B) Debate in the House of Representatives
5 on a bill under this section shall not exceed 4 hours,
6 which shall be divided equally between those favoring
7 and those opposing the bill. A motion further to
8 limit debate shall not be debatable. It shall not be
9 in order to move to recommit a bill under this sec-
10 tion or to move to reconsider the vote by which the
11 bill is agreed to or disagreed to.

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

16 “(3)(A) A bill transmitted to the Senate pursu-
17 ant to paragraph (1) (C) or (E) shall be referred to
18 its Committee on Appropriations. The committee
19 shall report the bill either without substantive revi-
20 sion or with an amendment in the nature of a sub-
21 stitute, and with or without recommendation. The
22 bill shall be reported not later than the seventh leg-
23 islative day of the Senate after it receives the bill.
24 A committee failing to report the bill within such pe-
25 riod shall be automatically discharged from consider-

1 ation of the bill, and the bill shall be placed upon
2 the appropriate calendar.

3 “(B) A vote on final passage of a bill trans-
4 mitted to the Senate shall be taken on or before the
5 close of the 10th legislative day of the Senate after
6 the date on which the bill is transmitted.

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(d) AMENDMENTS AND DIVISIONS GENERALLY
11 PROHIBITED.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2),
12 no amendment to a bill considered under this section or
13 to a substitute amendment referred to in paragraph (2)
14 shall be in order in either the House of Representatives
15 or the Senate. It shall not be in order to demand a division
16 of the question in the House of Representatives (or in a
17 Committee of the Whole) or in the Senate. No motion to
18 suspend the application of this subsection shall be in order
19 in either House, nor shall it be in order in either House
20 to suspend the application of this subsection by unanimous
21 consent.

22 “(2)(A) It shall be in order in the Senate to consider
23 an amendment in the nature of a substitute reported by
24 the Committee on Appropriations under subsection
25 (c)(3)(A) that complies with subparagraph (B).

1 “(B) It shall only be in order in the Senate to con-
2 sider any amendment described in subparagraph (A) if—

3 “(i) the amendment contains only rescissions to
4 the same appropriation Act as the bill that it is
5 amending contained; and

6 “(ii) the aggregate amount of budget authority
7 rescinded equals or exceeds the aggregate amount of
8 budget authority rescinded in the bill that it is
9 amending;

10 unless that amendment consists solely of the text of the
11 bill as introduced in the House of Representatives that
12 makes rescissions to carry out the applicable special mes-
13 sage of the President.

14 “(C) It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider
15 a bill or an amendment in the nature of a substitute re-
16 ported by the Committee on Appropriations under sub-
17 section (c)(3)(A) unless the Senate has voted upon and
18 rejected an amendment in the nature of a substitute con-
19 sisting solely of the text of the bill as introduced in the
20 House of Representatives that makes rescissions to carry
21 out the applicable special message of the President.

22 “(e) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR OBLI-
23 GATION.—Any amount of budget authority proposed to be
24 rescinded in a special message transmitted to Congress

1 under subsection (b) shall be made available for obligation
2 on the earlier of—

3 “(1) the day after the date upon which the
4 House of Representatives defeats the bill trans-
5 mitted with that special message rescinding the
6 amount proposed to be rescinded and (if reported by
7 the Committee on Appropriations) the alternative
8 bill; or

9 “(2) the day after the date upon which the Sen-
10 ate rejects a bill or amendment in the nature of a
11 substitute consisting solely of the text of the bill as
12 introduced in the House of Representatives that
13 makes rescissions to carry out the applicable special
14 message of the President.

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

16 “(1) the term ‘appropriation Act’ means any
17 general or special appropriation Act, and any Act or
18 joint resolution making supplemental, deficiency, or
19 continuing appropriations; and

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

23 (b) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.—Section
24 904 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 621 note) is amended—

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

3 (2) by striking “section 1017” in subsection (d)
4 and inserting “sections 1013 and 1018”; and

5 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) Section 1011 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 682(5))
7 is amended—

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

10 (B) in paragraph (5)—

11 (i) by striking “1016” and inserting
12 “1017”; and

13 (ii) by striking “1017(b)(1)” and in-
14 serting “1018(b)(1)”.

15 (2) Section 1015 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 685)
16 (as redesignated by section 2(a)) is amended—

17 (A) by striking “1012 or 1013” each place
18 it appears and inserting “1012, 1013, or
19 1014”;

20 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking
21 “1012” and inserting “1012 or 1013”;

22 (C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking
23 “1013” and inserting “1014”; and

24 (D) in subsection (e)(2)—

1 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
2 subparagraph (A);

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
4 (B) as subparagraph (C);

5 (iii) by striking “1013” in subpara-
6 graph (C) (as so redesignated) and insert-
7 ing “1014”; and

8 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
9 (A) the following new subparagraph:

10 “(B) he has transmitted a special message
11 under section 1013 with respect to a proposed
12 rescission; and”.

13 (3) Section 1016 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 686)
14 (as redesignated by section 2(a)) is amended by
15 striking “1012 or 1013” each place it appears and
16 inserting “1012, 1013, or 1014”.

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

19 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
20 tions 1013 through 1017 as items relating to sec-
21 tions 1014 through 1018; and

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

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

1 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1013 of the Congressional
3 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (as added
4 by section 2) shall apply to amounts of budget authority
5 provided by appropriation Acts (as defined in subsection
6 (f) of such section) that are enacted during the One Hun-
7 dred Tenth Congress.

8 (b) SPECIAL TRANSITION RULE.—Within 3 calendar
9 days after the beginning of the One Hundred Eleventh
10 Congress, the President may retransmit a special message,
11 in the manner provided in section 1013(b) of the Congres-
12 sional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (as
13 added by section 2), proposing to rescind only those
14 amounts of budget authority that were contained in any
15 special message to the One Hundred Tenth Congress
16 which that Congress failed to consider because of its sine
17 die adjournment before the close of the time period set
18 forth in such section 1013 for consideration of those pro-
19 posed rescissions. A draft bill shall accompany that special
20 message that, if enacted, would only rescind that budget
21 authority. Before the close of the second legislative day
22 of the House of Representatives after the date of receipt
23 of that special message, the majority leader or minority
24 leader of the House of Representatives shall introduce (by
25 request) the draft bill accompanying that special message.
26 If the bill is not introduced as provided in the preceding

1 sentence, then, on the third legislative day of the House
2 of Representatives after the date of receipt of that special
3 message, any Member of that House may introduce the
4 bill. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall
5 proceed to consider that bill in the manner provided in
6 such section 1013.

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