

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4237

To strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2012

Mr. FLEISCHMANN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

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 “Employees of America
5 Streamlining for Your Savings Act of 2012” or the
6 “EASY Savings Act of 2012”.

7 **SEC. 2. COST SAVINGS ENHANCEMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4512 of title 5, United
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by inserting “or identification of surplus funds
3 or unnecessary budget authority” after “mis-
4 management”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or
6 identification” after “disclosure”; and

7 (C) in the matter following paragraph (2),
8 by inserting “or identification” after “dis-
9 closure”; and
10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) The Inspector General of an agency or other
12 agency employee designated under subsection (b) shall
13 refer to the Chief Financial Officer of the agency any po-
14 tential surplus funds or unnecessary budget authority
15 identified by an employee, along with any recommenda-
16 tions of the Inspector General or other agency employee.

17 “(d)(1) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency
18 determines that rescission of potential surplus funds or
19 unnecessary budget authority identified by an employee
20 would not hinder the effectiveness of the agency, except
21 as provided in subsection (e), the head of the agency shall
22 transfer the amount of the surplus funds or unnecessary
23 budget authority from the applicable appropriations ac-
24 count to the general fund of the Treasury.

1 “(2) Title X of the Congressional Budget and Im-
2 poundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.)
3 shall not apply to transfers under paragraph (1).

4 “(3) Any amounts transferred under paragraph (1)
5 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit re-
6 duction, except that in the case of a fiscal year for which
7 there is no Federal budget deficit, such amounts shall be
8 used to reduce the Federal debt (in such manner as the
9 Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

10 “(e) The head of an agency may retain not more than
11 10 percent of amounts to be transferred to the general
12 fund of the Treasury under subsection (d) for the purpose
13 of paying a cash award under subsection (a) to the em-
14 ployee who identified the surplus funds or unnecessary
15 budget authority.

16 “(f)(1) The head of each agency shall submit to the
17 Director of the Office of Personnel Management an annual
18 report regarding—

19 “(A) each disclosure of possible fraud, waste, or
20 mismanagement or identification of potentially sur-
21 plus funds or unnecessary budget authority by an
22 employee of the agency determined by the agency to
23 have merit;

1 “(B) the total savings achieved through disclo-
2 sures and identifications described in subparagraph
3 (A); and

4 “(C) the number and amount of cash awards by
5 the agency under subsection (a).

6 “(2)(A) The head of each agency shall include the
7 information described in paragraph (1) in each budget re-
8 quest of the agency submitted to the Office of Manage-
9 ment and Budget as part of the preparation of the budget
10 of the President submitted to Congress under section
11 1105(a) of title 31.

12 “(B) The Director of the Office of Personnel Manage-
13 ment shall submit to Congress and the Government Ac-
14 countability Office an annual report on Federal cost sav-
15 ing and awards based on the reports submitted under sub-
16 paragraph (A).

17 “(g) The Director of the Office of Personnel Manage-
18 ment shall—

19 “(1) ensure that the cash award program of
20 each agency complies with this section; and

21 “(2) submit to Congress an annual certification
22 indicating whether the cash award program of each
23 agency complies with this section.

24 “(h) Not later than 3 years after the date of enact-
25 ment of the EASY Savings Act of 2012, and every 3 years

1 thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States
 2 shall submit to Congress a report on the operation of the
 3 cost savings and awards program under this section, in-
 4 cluding any recommendations for legislative changes.”.

5 (b) OFFICERS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH AWARDS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4509 of title 5,
 7 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 **“§ 4509. Prohibition of cash award to certain officers**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term ‘agen-
 10 cy’—

11 “(1) has the meaning given such term under
 12 section 551(1); and

13 “(2) includes an entity described in section
 14 4501(1).

15 “(b) PROHIBITION.—An officer may not receive a
 16 cash award under this subchapter if the officer—

17 “(1) serves in a position at level I of the Execu-
 18 tive Schedule;

19 “(2) is the head of an agency; or

20 “(3) is a commissioner, board member, or other
 21 voting member of an independent establishment.”.

22 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
 23 MENT.—The table of sections for chapter 45 of title
 24 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the

- 1 item relating to section 4509 and inserting the fol-
- 2 lowing:

“4509. Prohibition of cash award to certain officers.”.

