

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 849

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations and to reduce the security and nonsecurity discretionary spending limits by \$320 billion from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2021, and to suspend the statutory limit on the public debt until February 1, 2017.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GALLEGOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations and to reduce the security and nonsecurity discretionary spending limits by \$320 billion from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2021, and to suspend the statutory limit on the public debt until February 1, 2017.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sequestration Relief
3 Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Congress must enact a comprehensive, def-
7 icit reduction plan to solve the country’s fiscal chal-
8 lenges and to promote national security, economic
9 stability, and the continued growth and prosperity of
10 the United States.

11 (2) The keys to a comprehensive, deficit reduc-
12 tion solution are increased revenues and changes in
13 mandatory spending.

14 (3) The Budget Control Act of 2011 was en-
15 acted to avert a default on Federal debt obligations,
16 and it reduced discretionary spending by approxi-
17 mately \$1 trillion through fiscal year 2021.

18 (4) Because the Joint Select Committee on Def-
19 icit Reduction failed to recommend legislation pro-
20 viding an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction,
21 Federal law mandates that the additional savings be
22 sequestered.

23 (5) Sequestration was designed as a forcing
24 mechanism for an agreement on a comprehensive,
25 deficit reduction plan. It has failed to produce the
26 intended results.

1 (6) It no longer makes sense to rely on seques-
2 tration as a forcing mechanism for a balanced solu-
3 tion. The costs to our government and to the econ-
4 omy are too great.

5 (7) Under sequestration, automatic, indiscrimi-
6 nate cuts would be applied, through fiscal year
7 2021, to a wide variety of discretionary spending
8 programs to achieve \$1.2 trillion in savings, fore-
9 stalling the sound planning needed for prudent and
10 meaningful investments in national security, the
11 workforce, transportation infrastructure, education,
12 health care, public safety, housing, innovation, small
13 business development, and many other facets of en-
14 during national strength.

15 (8) Even the prospect of sequestration is dis-
16 ruptive to regular order and to the congressional ap-
17 propriations process, and it fosters damaging eco-
18 nomic uncertainty, while short-term solutions only
19 suspend the prospect and continue to undermine the
20 certainty needed for economic recovery.

21 (9) Therefore, Congress must eliminate the
22 threat of sequestration.

23 (10) Given the magnitude of the Federal deficit,
24 it is likely that additional cuts to discretionary

1 spending will be necessary for a comprehensive def-
2 icit reduction solution.

3 (11) Congress must establish a manageable,
4 long-term discretionary spending plan. An additional
5 \$320 billion in targetable cuts to discretionary ap-
6 propriations from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal
7 year 2021 represents one-third of the net amount
8 that would have been indiscriminately cut by seques-
9 tration over fiscal years 2013 through 2021.

10 (12) It is recognized that a reduction of \$167
11 billion to discretionary appropriations within budget
12 function 050 from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal
13 year 2021 will affect the National Military Strategy.
14 The Department of Defense is highly encouraged to
15 revisit its current strategic guidance and to work
16 closely with Congress in building a new National
17 Military Strategy that accounts for available re-
18 source levels.

19 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

20 (1) eliminate the threat of sequestration to the
21 American economy;

22 (2) offer the Federal Government, industry, and
23 the American people the predictability that economic
24 recovery demands;

1 (3) enable the Congress to pass appropriations
2 legislation in regular order with a clear discretionary
3 spending budget and grant the legislative and execu-
4 tive branches of government the flexibility needed to
5 identify and implement specific discretionary spend-
6 ing reductions in a responsible and deliberate man-
7 ner; and

8 (4) provide a practicable, long-term discre-
9 tionary spending plan that will contribute to a com-
10 prehensive, balanced, long-term, deficit reduction so-
11 lution that includes affordable revisions to manda-
12 tory spending and new revenues.

13 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF SECTION 251A SEQUESTRATIONS.**

14 Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
15 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is repealed.

16 **SEC. 4. \$320 BILLION REDUCTION IN DISCRETIONARY**
17 **SPENDING LIMITS.**

18 The discretionary spending limits set forth in para-
19 graphs (3) through (10) of section 251(c) of the Balanced
20 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are
21 amended to read as follows:

22 “(3) for fiscal year 2014—

23 “(A) for the security category,
24 \$546,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

1 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
2 \$501,000,000,000 in budget authority;

3 “(4) with respect to fiscal year 2015—

4 “(A) for the security category,
5 \$550,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

6 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
7 \$505,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

8 “(5) with respect to fiscal year 2016—

9 “(A) for the security category,
10 \$559,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

11 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
12 \$513,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

13 “(6) with respect to fiscal year 2017—

14 “(A) for the security category,
15 \$569,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

16 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
17 \$522,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

18 “(7) with respect to fiscal year 2018—

19 “(A) for the security category,
20 \$579,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

21 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
22 \$531,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

23 “(8) with respect to fiscal year 2019—

24 “(A) for the security category,
25 \$589,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

1 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
2 \$541,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

3 “(9) with respect to fiscal year 2020—

4 “(A) for the security category,
5 \$602,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

6 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
7 \$553,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

8 “(10) with respect to fiscal year 2021—

9 “(A) for the security category,
10 \$616,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

11 “(B) for the nonsecurity category,
12 \$565,000,000,000 in new budget authority;”.

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF SECURITY CATEGORY.**

14 Section 250(c)(4)(B) of the Balanced Budget and
15 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 “(B)(i) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the
18 term ‘security category’ means discretionary appro-
19 priations associated with agency budgets for the De-
20 partment of Defense, the Department of Homeland
21 Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the
22 National Nuclear Security Administration, the intel-
23 ligence community management account (95–0401–
24 0–1–054), and all budget accounts in budget func-
25 tion 150 (international affairs).

1 “(ii) For fiscal years 2014 through 2021, the
2 term ‘security category’ means discretionary appro-
3 priations in budget function 050 (national de-
4 fense).”.

5 **SEC. 6. SUSPENSION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC**
6 **DEBT UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2017.**

7 Section 2 of the No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013
8 is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “May 18,
10 2013” and inserting “January 31, 2017”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “May 19,
12 2013” each place it appears and inserting “Feb-
13 ruary 1, 2017”.

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