

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 547

To prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2013

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. ISAKSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory 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 This Act may be cited as the “One Percent Spending
5 Reduction Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The fiscal crisis faced by the Federal Gov-
9 ernment demands immediate action.

1 (2) The dramatic growth in spending and debt
2 in recent years threatens our economic and national
3 security:

4 (A) Federal spending has grown from 18
5 percent of GDP in 2001 to nearly 23 percent
6 of GDP in 2012.

7 (B) Total Federal debt exceeds
8 \$16,000,000,000,000 and is projected to in-
9 crease each year over the next 10 years.

10 (C) Without action, the Federal Govern-
11 ment will continue to run massive deficits in the
12 next decade and total Federal debt will rise to
13 \$26,000,000,000,000 by 2023.

14 (D) Interest payments on this debt will
15 soon rise to the point where balancing the
16 budget as a matter of policy is beyond the reach
17 of Congress.

18 (3) Due to recent tax hikes, Federal revenues
19 are scheduled to rise to approximately 19 percent of
20 GDP, a full percentage point above the average of
21 about 18 percent of GDP over the past 40 years.

22 (4) Absent reform, the growth of Social Secu-
23 rity, Medicare, Medicaid, and other health-related
24 spending will overwhelm all other Federal programs
25 and consume all projected tax revenues.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to address
2 the fiscal crisis by—

3 (1) acting quickly to balance the Federal budg-
4 et and eliminate the parade of deficits and bal-
5 looning interest payments;

6 (2) achieving balance by reducing spending one
7 percent per year until spending equals projected
8 long-term revenues; and

9 (3) reforming entitlement programs to ensure
10 long-term fiscal stability and balance.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF SPEND-**
12 **ING CAPS.**

13 (a) OUTLAY CAPS.—The Balanced Budget and
14 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by in-
15 serting after section 253 the following new section:

16 **“SEC. 253A. ESTABLISHING OUTLAY CAPS.**

17 “(a) OUTLAY CAPS.—In this section, the term ‘outlay
18 cap’ means:

19 “(1) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—For fiscal year 2014,
20 the aggregate outlays (less net interest payments)
21 for fiscal year 2014 shall be \$3,329,000,000,000,
22 less one percent.

23 “(2) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—For fiscal year 2015,
24 the aggregate outlays (less net interest payments)

1 for fiscal year 2015 shall be the amount computed
 2 under paragraph (1), less one percent.

3 “(3) FISCAL YEAR 2016.—For fiscal year 2016,
 4 the aggregate outlays (less net interest payments)
 5 for fiscal year 2016 shall be the amount computed
 6 under paragraph (2), less one percent.

7 “(4) FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND SUBSEQUENT FIS-
 8 CAL YEARS.—(A) For fiscal year 2017 and each sub-
 9 sequent fiscal year, the aggregate outlays shall be 19
 10 percent of the gross domestic product for that fiscal
 11 year as estimated by OMB prior to March of the
 12 previous fiscal year.

13 “(B) Notwithstanding paragraph (A), for any
 14 fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2018, the ag-
 15 gregate projected outlays may not be less than the
 16 aggregate projected outlays for the preceding fiscal
 17 year.

18 “(b) SEQUESTRATION.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

20 “(A) EXCESS SPENDING.—Not later than
 21 45 calendar days after the beginning of a fiscal
 22 year, OMB shall conduct a sequestration to
 23 eliminate the excess outlay amount.

24 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(i) For fiscal years 2014 through
2 2016 and for purposes of this subsection,
3 the term ‘excess outlay amount’ means the
4 amount by which total projected Federal
5 outlays (less net interest payments) for a
6 fiscal year exceeds the outlay cap for that
7 fiscal year.

8 “(ii) For fiscal year 2017 and in sub-
9 sequent fiscal years and for purposes of
10 this subsection, the term ‘excess outlay
11 amount’ means the amount by which total
12 projected Federal outlays for a fiscal year
13 exceeds the outlay cap for that fiscal year.

14 “(2) SEQUESTRATION.—

15 “(A) On August 15 of each year, CBO
16 shall issue a sequestration preview report as de-
17 scribed in section 254(c)(4).

18 “(B) On August 20 of each year, OMB
19 shall issue a sequestration preview report as de-
20 scribed in section 254(c)(4).

21 “(C) On October 31 of each year, OMB
22 shall issue its final sequestration report as de-
23 scribed in section 254(f)(3). It shall be accom-
24 panied by a Presidential order detailing uniform

1 spending reductions equal to the excess outlay
2 amount as defined in this section.

3 “(D) The reductions shall generally follow
4 the process set forth in sections 253 and 254,
5 except as provided in this section.

6 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.—If the August
7 20 OMB report projects a sequestration, the Com-
8 mittees on Budget of the Senate and House of Rep-
9 resentatives may report a resolution directing their
10 committees to change the existing law to achieve the
11 spending reductions outlined in the August 20 re-
12 port necessary to meet the outlay limits.

13 “(c) NO EXEMPT PROGRAMS.—Section 255 and sec-
14 tion 256 shall not apply to this section, except that pay-
15 ments for net interest (budget function 900) shall be ex-
16 empt from the spending reductions under sequestration.

17 “(d) LOOK BACK.—If, after November 14, a bill re-
18 sulting in outlays for the fiscal year in progress is enacted
19 that causes excess outlays, the excess outlay amount for
20 the next fiscal year shall be increased by the amount or
21 amounts of that breach.”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO BBEDCA.—

23 (1) SEQUESTRATION PREVIEW REPORTS.—Sec-
24 tion 254(c)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-

1 agency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 “(4) OUTLAY CAP SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—
4 The preview reports shall set forth for the budget
5 year estimates for the following:

6 “(A)(i) For each of budget years 2014
7 through 2016: the aggregate projected outlays
8 (less net interest payments), less one percent.

9 “(ii) For budget year 2017 and each sub-
10 sequent budget year: the estimated gross do-
11 mestic product (GDP) for that budget year.

12 “(B) The amount of reductions required
13 under section 253A.

14 “(C) The sequestration percentage nec-
15 essary to achieve the required reduction under
16 section 253A.”.

17 (2) FINAL SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—Section
18 254(f)(3) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
19 Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 “(3) OUTLAY CAPS SEQUESTRATION RE-
22 PORTS.—The final reports shall contain all the infor-
23 mation required in the outlay cap sequestration pre-
24 view reports. In addition, these reports shall contain,
25 for the budget year, for each account to be seques-

1 tered, estimates of the baseline level of sequestrable
 2 budgetary resources and resulting outlays and the
 3 amount of budgetary sources to be sequestered and
 4 result in outlay reductions. The reports shall also
 5 contain estimates of the effects on outlays on the se-
 6 questration of each outyear for direct spending pro-
 7 grams.”.

8 (3) REPEAL OF EXPIRATION DATE.—Section
 9 275 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit
 10 Control Act of 1985 is repealed.

11 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—Title III of the Congressional
 12 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding after section
 13 315 the following:

14 **“SEC. 316. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

15 “(a) OUTLAY CAPS.—It shall not be in order in the
 16 House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any
 17 bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that
 18 includes any provision that would cause the most recently
 19 reported, current outlay cap set forth in section 253A of
 20 the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act
 21 of 1985 to be breached.

22 “(b) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION.—

23 “(1) IN THE SENATE.—The provisions of this
 24 section may be waived or suspended in the Senate

1 only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
2 Members, duly chosen and sworn.

3 “(2) IN THE HOUSE.—The provisions of this
4 section may be waived or suspended in the House of
5 Representatives only by a rule or order proposing
6 only to waive such provisions by an affirmative vote
7 of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and
8 sworn.

9 “(c) POINT OF ORDER PROTECTION.—In the House,
10 it shall not be in order to consider a rule or order that
11 waives the application of paragraph (2) of subsection (b).

12 “(d) MOTION TO SUSPEND.—It shall not be in order
13 for the Speaker to entertain a motion to suspend the appli-
14 cation of this section under clause 1 of rule XV.”.

15 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

16 The table of contents set forth in—

17 (1) section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget
18 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended
19 by inserting after the item relating to section 315
20 the following new item:

 “Sec. 316. Enforcement procedures.”;

21 and

22 (2) section 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and
23 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 253
2 the following new item:

“Sec. 253A. Establishing outlay caps.”.

3 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 This Act and the amendments made by it shall apply
5 to fiscal year 2014 and subsequent fiscal years, including
6 any reports and calculations required for implementation
7 in fiscal year 2014.

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