

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2471

To cap noninterest Federal Spending as a percentage of potential GDP to right-size the government, grow the economy, and balance the budget.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas 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 cap noninterest Federal Spending as a percentage of potential GDP to right-size the government, grow the economy, and balance the budget.

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 title may be cited as the “Maximizing America’s
5 Prosperity Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. TOTAL SPENDING LIMITS.**

2 (a) TOTAL SPENDING LIMITS.—Section 251 of the
3 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of
4 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 251. TOTAL SPENDING LIMITS.**

6 “(a) PROJECTIONS.—

7 “(1) OMB REPORT.—OMB shall prepare a re-
8 port comparing projected total spending under sec-
9 tion 257 and the total spending limits in subsection
10 (c), and include such report in the budget as sub-
11 mitted by the President annually under section
12 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

13 “(2) CBO REPORT.—CBO shall prepare a re-
14 port comparing projected total spending under sec-
15 tion 257 and the total spending limits in subsection
16 (c) and include such report in the CBO annual base-
17 line and reestimate of the President’s budget.

18 “(3) INCLUSION IN SPENDING REDUCTION OR-
19 DERS.—Reports prepared pursuant to this sub-
20 section shall be included in the spending reduction
21 report.

22 “(b) SPENDING REDUCTION ORDER.—(1) Within 15
23 calendar days after Congress adjourns to end a session,
24 there shall be a spending reduction order under section
25 254(f)(5).

1 “(2) Each non-exempt discretionary budget account
2 shall be reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multi-
3 plying the enacted level of sequestrable budgetary re-
4 sources in that account at that time by the uniform per-
5 centage necessary to achieve the required automatic
6 spending reduction.

7 “(3) No discretionary budget account shall be subject
8 to a spending reduction of more than five percent of its
9 budgetary resources.

10 “(c) FISCAL YEARS OF THE TOTAL SPENDING PE-
11 RIOD.—The fiscal years within the total spending period
12 shall be as follows:

13 “(1) Fiscal year 2016: 19.0 percent of potential
14 GDP.

15 “(2) Fiscal year 2017: 17.7 percent of potential
16 GDP.

17 “(3) Fiscal year 2018: 17.0 percent of potential
18 GDP.

19 “(4) Fiscal year 2019: 16.8 percent of potential
20 GDP.

21 “(5) Fiscal year 2020: 16.7 percent of potential
22 GDP.

23 “(6) Fiscal year 2021: 16.6 percent of potential
24 GDP.

1 “(7) Fiscal year 2022: 16.6 percent of potential
2 GDP.

3 “(8) Fiscal year 2023: 16.3 percent of potential
4 GDP.

5 “(9) Fiscal year 2024: 16.0 percent of potential
6 GDP.

7 “(10) Fiscal year 2025 and subsequent fiscal
8 years: 16.0 percent of potential GDP.

9 “(d) REDUCTION FOR UNFUNDED FEDERAL MAN-
10 DATES.—The amount determined under subsection (c)
11 with respect to each fiscal year shall be reduced by an
12 amount equal to the amount of the unfunded direct costs
13 with respect to such fiscal year of Federal mandates (as
14 such terms are defined under section 421 of the Congres-
15 sional Budget Act of 1974) enacted after the date of the
16 enactment of this section. Such amount shall not be treat-
17 ed as being less than zero with respect to any fiscal year.”.

18 (b) REPEAL OF SECTION 251A.—Section 251A of the
19 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of
20 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a) is repealed.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Congressional
22 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C.
23 622) is amended by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraphs:

1 “(12) The term ‘total spending’ means all out-
2 lays of the Government including those from off-
3 budget entities and budget authority and outlays
4 flowing therefrom, as applicable, designated as emer-
5 gencies, and excluding net interest.

6 “(13) The term ‘total spending limit’ means the
7 maximum permissible total spending of the Govern-
8 ment set forth as a percentage of estimated potential
9 GDP.

10 “(14) The term ‘potential GDP’ has the same
11 meaning as the term potential GDP used by the
12 Congressional Budget Office, which is the gross do-
13 mestic product that would occur if the economy were
14 at full employment, not exceeding the employment
15 level at which inflation would occur.”.

16 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RESULTING FROM
17 THE REPEAL OF OLD SECTION 251.—

18 (1) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraphs (3) and (4) of
19 section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
20 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are repealed.

21 (2) SECTIONS 254(c) AND 254(f) AMEND-
22 MENTS.—Sections 254(c)(2) and 254(f)(2) of such
23 Act are repealed.

24 (e) ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO
25 SECTION 254.—(1) The table set forth in section 254(a)

1 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control
2 Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(a)) is amended by striking “se-
3 questration” each place it appears.

4 (2) Section 254(c)(1) of such Act is amended by in-
5 serting “and” before “pay-as-you-go” and by striking “,
6 and deficit” and inserting “and regarding spending reduc-
7 tion”.

8 (3) Section 254(c)(4) of such Act is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 “(4) SPENDING REDUCTION REPORT.—The pre-
11 view report shall set forth for the budget year esti-
12 mates for each of the following:

13 “(A) Estimated total spending.

14 “(B) Estimate of potential GDP.

15 “(C) The spending reduction percentage
16 necessary to achieve the applicable percent of
17 potential GDP under section 251(c).”.

18 (4) Section 254(f)(3) of such Act is amended—

19 (A) in the side heading, by striking “AND DEF-
20 ICIT SEQUESTRATION REPORTS” and insert “SE-
21 QUESTRATION REPORT AND SPENDING REDUCTION
22 REPORT”; and

23 (B) in the first sentence, by striking “and def-
24 icit sequestration preview reports” and inserting “se-

1 questuration preview report and the spending reduc-
2 tion report”.

3 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO SECTION 250.—

4 The item relating to section 251 in the table of contents
5 set forth in 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
6 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(a)) is
7 amended to read as follows:

 “Sec. 251. Total spending limits.”.

8 **SEC. 3. ALLOCATION FOR EMERGENCIES.**

9 (a) Section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act
10 of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new paragraph:

12 “(6) ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEES ON AP-
13 PROPRIATIONS FOR EMERGENCIES.—Of the amounts
14 of new budget authority and outlays allocated to the
15 Committees on Appropriations for the first fiscal
16 year of the concurrent resolution on the budget, 1
17 percent shall be set aside for emergencies and may
18 be used for no other purpose.”.

19 (b) Section 1105(a)(14) of title 31, United States
20 Code, is amended by inserting “, including an amount for
21 emergency spending not less than 1 percent of all discre-
22 tionary spending for that year” before the period.

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