

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5572

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2018

Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. GAETZ) 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 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 2018”.

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

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

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

3 (2) The dramatic growth in spending and debt
4 in recent years threatens the economic and national
5 security of the United States:

6 (A) Federal spending has grown from 18
7 percent of gross domestic product in 2001 to
8 nearly 21 percent of gross domestic product in
9 2017.

10 (B) Total Federal debt exceeds
11 \$21,300,000,000,000 and is projected to in-
12 crease each year over the next 10 years.

13 (C) Without action, the Federal Govern-
14 ment will continue to run massive deficits in the
15 next decade and total Federal debt will rise to
16 \$33,800,000,000,000 by 2028.

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

21 (3) Absent reform, the growth of Social Secu-
22 rity, Medicare, Medicaid, and other health-related
23 spending will overwhelm all other Federal programs
24 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 1
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 (2 U.S.C. 900 et
15 seq.) is amended by inserting after section 253 the fol-
16 lowing:

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

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

20 “(1) FISCAL YEAR 2019.—For fiscal year 2019,
21 total outlays (less net interest payments) shall be
22 not more than \$3,826,000,000,000, less 1 percent.

23 “(2) FISCAL YEAR 2020.—For fiscal year 2020,
24 total outlays (less net interest payments) shall be

1 not more than the amount computed under para-
2 graph (1), less 1 percent.

3 “(3) FISCAL YEAR 2021.—For fiscal year 2021,
4 total outlays (less net interest payments) shall be
5 not more than the amount computed under para-
6 graph (2), less 1 percent.

7 “(4) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—For fiscal year 2022,
8 total outlays (less net interest payments) shall be
9 not more than the amount computed under para-
10 graph (3), less 1 percent.

11 “(5) FISCAL YEAR 2023.—For fiscal year 2023,
12 total outlays (less net interest payments) shall be
13 not more than the amount computed under para-
14 graph (4), less 1 percent.

15 “(6) FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND SUBSEQUENT FIS-
16 CAL YEARS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2024
18 and each fiscal year thereafter, total outlays
19 shall be not more than 18 percent of the gross
20 domestic product for that fiscal year, as esti-
21 mated by the Office of Management and Budg-
22 et prior to March of the previous fiscal year.

23 “(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding sub-
24 paragraph (A), for any fiscal year beginning
25 with fiscal year 2025, total projected outlays

1 may not be less than total projected outlays for
2 the preceding fiscal year.

3 “(b) SEQUESTRATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

5 “(A) EXCESS SPENDING.—Not later than
6 45 calendar days after the beginning of a fiscal
7 year, the Office of Management and Budget
8 shall prepare and the President shall order a
9 sequestration to eliminate any excess outlay
10 amount.

11 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—

12 “(i) FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH
13 2023.—For each of fiscal years 2019
14 through 2023 and for purposes of this sub-
15 section, the term ‘excess outlay amount’
16 means the amount by which total projected
17 Federal outlays (less net interest pay-
18 ments) for a fiscal year exceeds the outlay
19 cap for that fiscal year.

20 “(ii) FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND SUBSE-
21 QUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year
22 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter and
23 for purposes of this subsection, the term
24 ‘excess outlay amount’ means the amount
25 by which total projected Federal outlays

1 for a fiscal year exceeds the outlay cap for
2 that fiscal year.

3 “(2) SEQUESTRATION.—

4 “(A) CBO PREVIEW REPORT.—On August
5 15 of each year, the Congressional Budget Of-
6 fice shall issue a sequestration preview report
7 as described in section 254(c)(4).

8 “(B) OMB PREVIEW REPORT.—On August
9 20 of each year, the Office of Management and
10 Budget shall issue a sequestration preview re-
11 port as described in section 254(c)(4).

12 “(C) FINAL REPORT.—On October 31 of
13 each year, the Office of Management and Budg-
14 et shall issue a final sequestration report as de-
15 scribed in section 254(f)(3), which shall be ac-
16 companied by a Presidential order detailing uni-
17 form spending reductions equal to the excess
18 outlay amount.

19 “(D) PROCESS.—The reductions shall gen-
20 erally follow the process set forth in sections
21 253 and 254, except as provided in this section.

22 “(3) CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.—If the August
23 20 report by the Office of Management and Budget
24 projects a sequestration, the Committee on the
25 Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the

1 Budget of the House of Representatives may report
2 a resolution directing committees of their House to
3 change the existing law to achieve the spending re-
4 ductions outlined in the August 20 report necessary
5 to meet the outlay limits.

6 “(c) NO EXEMPT PROGRAMS.—Section 255 and sec-
7 tion 256 shall not apply to this section or any sequestra-
8 tion order issued under this section, except that payments
9 for net interest (budget function 900) shall be exempt
10 from the spending reductions under sequestration.

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

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO BBEDCA.—

17 (1) SEQUESTRATION PREVIEW REPORTS.—Sec-
18 tion 254(c)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
19 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
20 904(c)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(4) OUTLAY CAP SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—

22 The preview reports shall set forth for the budget
23 year estimates for the following:

1 “(A)(i) For each of budget years 2019
2 through 2023, total projected outlays (less net
3 interest payments), less one percent.

4 “(ii) For budget year 2024 and each sub-
5 sequent budget year, the estimated gross do-
6 mestic product for that budget year.

7 “(B) The amount of reductions required
8 under section 253A.

9 “(C) The sequestration percentage nec-
10 essary to achieve the required reduction under
11 section 253A.”.

12 (2) FINAL SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—Section
13 254(f)(3) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
14 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(3)) is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 “(3) OUTLAY CAPS SEQUESTRATION RE-
17 PORTS.—The final reports shall contain all the infor-
18 mation required in the outlay cap sequestration pre-
19 view reports. In addition, these reports shall contain,
20 for the budget year, for each account to be seques-
21 tered, estimates of the baseline level of sequestrable
22 budgetary resources and resulting outlays and the
23 amount of budgetary sources to be sequestered and
24 result in outlay reductions. The reports shall also
25 contain estimates of the effects on outlays on the se-

1 questration of each outyear for direct spending pro-
2 grams.”.

3 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—Title III of the Congressional
4 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding after section 315 the following:

6 **“SEC. 316. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.**

7 “(a) OUTLAY CAPS.—It shall not be in order in the
8 House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any
9 bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the
10 Houses, or conference report that includes any provision
11 that would cause the most recently reported, current out-
12 lay cap set forth in section 253A of the Balanced Budget
13 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to be
14 breached or increased.

15 “(b) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION.—

16 “(1) IN THE SENATE.—The provisions of this
17 section may be waived or suspended in the Senate
18 only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
19 Members, duly chosen and sworn.

20 “(2) IN THE HOUSE.—The provisions of this
21 section may be waived or suspended in the House of
22 Representatives only by a rule or order proposing
23 only to waive such provisions by an affirmative vote
24 of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and
25 sworn.

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

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

7 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

8 The table of contents set forth in—

9 (1) section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget
 10 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended
 11 by inserting after the item relating to section 315
 12 the following new item:

“Sec. 316. Enforcement procedures.”;

13 and

14 (2) section 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and
 15 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended
 16 by inserting after the item relating to section 253
 17 the following new item:

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

18 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
 20 apply to fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter,
 21 including any reports and calculations required for imple-
 22 mentation in fiscal year 2019.

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