

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3982

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for procedures for establishing discretionary spending limits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. WOMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for procedures for establishing discretionary spending limits, and for other purposes.

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 “Stop The Ever-growing
5 Wasteful And Reckless Deficits Act” or the “STEWARD
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING DISCRETIONARY**
 2 **SPENDING LIMITS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional
 4 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the
 5 following:

6 “PROCEDURES TO ESTABLISH LIMITS ON DISCRETIONARY
 7 SPENDING

8 “SEC. 316. (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon adoption by
 9 Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for a
 10 fiscal year under section 301 or 304 that sets forth a dis-
 11 cretionary spending limit for that fiscal year, the chair of
 12 the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representa-
 13 tives shall introduce the joint resolution described in sub-
 14 section (b) and it shall be in order to consider such joint
 15 resolution in the House anytime after introduction without
 16 intervening motion.

17 “(b) TITLE AND TEXT OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—The
 18 joint resolution described in subsection (a)—

19 “(1) shall have the following title: ‘A joint reso-
 20 lution amending section 251(c) of the Balanced
 21 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985
 22 to establish the discretionary spending limit for fis-
 23 cal year _____.’, for the fiscal year of the applica-
 24 ble concurrent resolution on the budget for the dis-
 25 cretionary spending limit;

1 “(2) may establish a discretionary spending
 2 limit for any of the 9 fiscal years following the fiscal
 3 year described in paragraph (1); and

4 “(3) shall have in the matter after the resolving
 5 clause solely the text contained in the separate sec-
 6 tion described in subsection (c).

7 “(c) TEXT FOR DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMIT.—
 8 A concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year
 9 shall include, as a separate section, text setting forth an
 10 amendment to section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and
 11 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to establish a dis-
 12 cretionary spending limit for that fiscal year or any of the
 13 9 ensuing fiscal years.

14 “(d) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF
 15 REPRESENTATIVES.—

16 “(1) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be in order at
 18 any time to move to proceed to consider the
 19 joint resolution in the House of Representa-
 20 tives.

21 “(B) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to pro-
 22 ceed to consider the joint resolution—

23 “(i) all points of order against the
 24 motion are waived;

1 “(ii) such a motion shall not be in
2 order after the House of Representatives
3 has disposed of a motion to proceed on the
4 joint resolution;

5 “(iii) the previous question shall be
6 considered as ordered on the motion to its
7 adoption without intervening motion;

8 “(iv) the motion shall not be debat-
9 able; and

10 “(v) a motion to reconsider the vote
11 by which the motion is disposed of shall
12 not be in order.

13 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—When the House of
14 Representatives proceeds to consideration of the
15 joint resolution—

16 “(A) the joint resolution shall be consid-
17 ered as read;

18 “(B) all points of order against the joint
19 resolution and against its consideration are
20 waived;

21 “(C) the previous question shall be consid-
22 ered as ordered on the joint resolution to its
23 passage without intervening motion except 10
24 hours of debate equally divided and controlled
25 by the proponent and an opponent;

1 “(D) an amendment to the joint resolution
2 shall not be in order; and

3 “(E) a motion to reconsider the vote on
4 passage of the joint resolution shall not be in
5 order.

6 “(3) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—In the House of Rep-
7 resentatives, the joint resolution shall be agreed to
8 upon a vote of a majority of the Members present
9 and voting, a quorum being present.

10 “(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—

11 “(1) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon receipt
12 in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be placed im-
13 mediately on the calendar.

14 “(2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule
16 XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is
17 in order to move to proceed to the consideration
18 of the joint resolution.

19 “(B) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to pro-
20 ceed to the consideration of the joint resolu-
21 tion—

22 “(i) all points of order against the
23 motion are waived;

24 “(ii) the motion is not debatable;

1 “(iii) the motion is not subject to a
2 motion to postpone;

3 “(iv) a motion to reconsider the vote
4 by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
5 agreed to shall not be in order; and

6 “(v) if the motion is agreed to, the
7 joint resolution shall remain the unfinished
8 business until disposed of.

9 “(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Senate proceeds
11 to consideration of the joint resolution—

12 “(i) all points of order against the
13 joint resolution (and against consideration
14 of the joint resolution) are waived;

15 “(ii) consideration of the joint resolu-
16 tion, and all debatable motions and appeals
17 in connection therewith, shall be limited to
18 not more than 30 hours, which shall be di-
19 vided equally between the majority and mi-
20 nority leaders or their designees;

21 “(iii) a motion further to limit debate
22 is in order and not debatable;

23 “(iv) an amendment to, a motion to
24 postpone, or a motion to commit the joint
25 resolution is not in order; and

1 “(v) a motion to proceed to the con-
2 sideration of other business is not in order.

3 “(B) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—In the Senate—

4 “(i) the vote on passage shall occur
5 immediately following the conclusion of the
6 consideration of the joint resolution, and a
7 single quorum call at the conclusion of the
8 debate if requested in accordance with the
9 rules of the Senate; and

10 “(ii) the joint resolution shall be
11 agreed to upon a vote of a majority of the
12 Members present and voting, a quorum
13 being present.

14 “(C) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
15 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
16 relating to the application of this subsection or
17 the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to
18 the procedure relating to the joint resolution
19 shall be decided without debate.

20 “(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that if a discretionary spending limit for a fiscal year
22 established by any joint resolution pursuant to this section
23 is greater than the baseline level for that fiscal year, as
24 estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, an amount
25 equal to the difference should be offset.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 301(b) of
2 the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the
4 end;

5 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and
6 inserting “; and”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(8) include the matter described in section
9 316.”.

10 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
11 set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget Act
12 of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating
13 to section 315 the following new item:

“Sec. 316. Procedures to establish limits on discretionary spending.”.

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