

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 35

Providing for a joint hearing of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2020

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KING) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Providing for a joint hearing of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch.

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Fiscal State of
5 the Nation Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL JOINT HEARING OF BUDGET COMMITTEES**
2 **TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION BY THE COMP-**
3 **TROLLER GENERAL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days (excluding
5 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) after the date on which
6 the Secretary of the Treasury submits to Congress the au-
7 dited financial statement required under paragraph (1) of
8 section 331(e) of title 31, United States Code, on a date
9 agreed upon by the chairmen of the Budget Committees
10 and the Comptroller General of the United States, the
11 chairmen shall conduct a joint hearing to receive a presen-
12 tation from the Comptroller General—

13 (1) reviewing the findings of the audit required
14 under paragraph (2) of such section; and

15 (2) providing, with respect to the information
16 included by the Secretary in the report accom-
17 panying such audited financial statement, an anal-
18 ysis of the financial position and condition of the
19 Federal Government, including financial measures
20 (such as the net operating cost, income, budget defi-
21 cits, or budget surpluses) and sustainability meas-
22 ures (such as the long-term fiscal projection or social
23 insurance projection) described in such report.

24 (b) PRESENTATION OF STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE
25 WITH GAO STRATEGIES AND MEANS.—The Comptroller
26 General of the United States shall ensure that the presen-

1 tation at each joint hearing conducted under subsection
 2 (a) is made in accordance with the Strategies and Means
 3 of the Government Accountability Office, to ensure that
 4 the presentation will provide professional, objective, fact-
 5 based, nonpartisan, nonideological, fair, and balanced in-
 6 formation to the Members attending the hearing.

7 (c) RULES APPLICABLE TO HEARING.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each joint hearing con-
 9 ducted by the chairmen of the Budget Committees
 10 under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accord-
 11 ance with Standing Rules of the Senate and the
 12 Rules of the House of Representatives which apply
 13 to such a hearing, including the provisions requiring
 14 hearings conducted by committees to be open to the
 15 public, including to radio, television, and still pho-
 16 tography coverage.

17 (2) PERMITTING PARTICIPATION BY SENATORS
 18 AND MEMBERS NOT SERVING ON BUDGET COMMIT-
 19 TEES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Stand-
 20 ing Rules of the Senate or the Rules of the House
 21 of Representatives, any Senator and any Member of
 22 the House of Representatives (including a Delegate
 23 or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) may
 24 participate in a joint hearing under subsection (a) in
 25 the same manner and to the same extent as a Sen-

1 ator or Member of the House of Representatives who
2 is a member of either of the Budget Committees.

3 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Budget
4 Committees” means the Committee on the Budget of the
5 Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House
6 of Representatives.

7 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirement under sub-
8 section (a) shall apply with respect to any audited finan-
9 cial statement under section 331(e)(1) of title 31, United
10 States Code, submitted on or after the date of adoption
11 of this resolution.

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