

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4914

To reform the concept of baseline budgeting.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1994

Mr. STENHOLM (for himself, Mr. PENNY, and Mr. KASICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Government Operations and Rules

A BILL

To reform the concept of baseline budgeting.

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 “Baseline Reform Act
5 of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. THE BASELINE.**

7 (a) Except for purposes of adjusting the discretionary
8 spending limits set forth in section 601(a)(2) of the Con-
9 gressional Budget Act of 1974, section 257(c) of the Bal-
10 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985
11 is amended—

1 (1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by
2 striking “sequentially and cumulatively” and by
3 striking “for inflation as specified in paragraph
4 (5),”; and

5 (2) and by redesignating paragraph (6) as
6 paragraph (5).

7 (b) Section 1109(a) of title 31, United States Code,
8 is amended by adding after the first sentence the following
9 new sentence: “These estimates shall not include an ad-
10 justment for inflation for programs and activities subject
11 to discretionary appropriations.”.

12 **SEC. 3. THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.**

13 (a) Paragraph (5) of section 1105(a) of title 31,
14 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

15 “(5) except as provided in subsection (b) of this
16 section, estimated expenditures and appropriations
17 for the current year and estimated expenditures and
18 proposed appropriations the President decides are
19 necessary to support the Government in the fiscal
20 year for which the budget is submitted and the 4 fis-
21 cal years following that year;”.

22 (b) Section 1105(a)(6) of title 31, United States
23 Code, is amended by inserting “current fiscal year and
24 the” before “fiscal year”.

1 (c) Section 1105(a)(12) of title 31, United States
2 Code, is amended by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
3 graph (A), by striking the period and inserting “; and”
4 at the end of subparagraph (B), and by adding at the end
5 the following new subparagraph:

6 “(C) the estimated amount for the same activ-
7 ity (if any) in the current fiscal year.”.

8 (d) Section 1105(a)(18) of title 31, United States
9 Code, is amended by inserting “new budget authority
10 and” before “budget outlays”.

11 (e) Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code,
12 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
13 graph:

14 “(30) a comparison of levels of estimated ex-
15 penditures and proposed appropriations for each
16 function and subfunction in the current fiscal year
17 and the fiscal year for which the budget is submit-
18 ted, along with the proposed increase or decrease of
19 spending in percentage terms for each function and
20 subfunction.”.

21 **SEC. 4. THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET.**

22 Section 301(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of
23 1974 is amended by—

24 (1) inserting after the second sentence the fol-
25 lowing: “The starting point for any deliberations in

1 the Committee on the Budget of each House on the
2 concurrent resolution on the budget for the next fis-
3 cal year shall be the estimated level of outlays for
4 the current year in each function and subfunction.
5 Any increases or decreases in the Congressional
6 budget for the next fiscal year shall be from such es-
7 timated levels.”; and

8 (2) striking paragraph (8) and redesignating
9 paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (10) and
10 (11), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph
11 (7) the following new paragraphs:

12 “(8) a comparison of levels for the current fis-
13 cal year with proposed spending and revenue levels
14 for the subsequent fiscal years along with the pro-
15 posed increase or decrease of spending in percentage
16 terms for each function and subfunction; and

17 “(9) information, data, and comparisons indi-
18 cating the manner in which and the basis on which,
19 the committee determined each of the matters set
20 forth in the concurrent resolution, including infor-
21 mation on outlays for the current fiscal year and the
22 decisions reached to set funding for the subsequent
23 fiscal years;”.

1 **SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE REPORTS TO**
2 **COMMITTEES.**

3 (a) The first sentence of section 202(f)(1) of the Con-
4 gressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended to read as fol-
5 lows: “On or before February 15 of each year, the Direc-
6 tor shall submit to the Committees on the Budget of the
7 House of Representatives and the Senate a report for the
8 fiscal year commencing on October 1 of that year with
9 respect to fiscal policy, including (A) alternative levels of
10 total revenues, total new budget authority, and total out-
11 lays (including related surpluses and deficits) compared
12 to comparable levels for the current year and (B) the levels
13 of tax expenditures under existing law, taking into account
14 projected economic factors and any changes in such levels
15 based on proposals in the budget submitted by the Presi-
16 dent for such fiscal year.”.

17 (b) Section 202(f)(1) of the Congressional Budget
18 Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the first sen-
19 tence the following new sentence: “That report shall also
20 include a table on sources of spending growth under cur-
21 rent law in total mandatory spending for the budget year
22 and the ensuing 4 fiscal years, which shall include changes
23 in outlays attributable to the following: cost-of-living ad-
24 justments; changes in the number of program recipients;
25 increases in medical care prices, utilization and intensity
26 of medical care; and residual factors.”.

1 (c) Section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget
2 Act of 1974 is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and
4 shall include a comparison of those levels to com-
5 parable levels for the current fiscal year” before “if
6 timely submitted”; and

7 (2) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
8 graph (C), by striking the period and inserting “;
9 and” at the end of subparagraph (D), and by adding
10 at the end the following new subparagraph:

11 “(E) comparing the levels in existing pro-
12 grams in such measure to the estimated levels
13 for the current fiscal year.”

14 (d) Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
15 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

16 “GAO REPORTS TO BUDGET COMMITTEES
17 “SEC. 408. On or before January 15 of each year,
18 the Comptroller General, after consultation with appro-
19 priate committees of the House of Representatives and
20 Senate, shall submit to the Congress a report listing all
21 programs and activities with permanent appropriations or
22 that fall within the definition of spending authority under
23 section 401(c)(2).”.

24 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
25 tents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget
26 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by in-

- 1 inserting after the item relating to section 407 the following
- 2 new item:

“Sec. 408. GAO reports to budget committees.”.

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