

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1985

To allow a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to propose and have an up or down vote on a balanced deficit reduction bill pursuant to this Act, such as proposed by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform report, reducing the deficit by a goal of \$4,000,000,000,000 over 10 years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2011

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To allow a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to propose and have an up or down vote on a balanced deficit reduction bill pursuant to this Act, such as proposed by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform report, reducing the deficit by a goal of \$4,000,000,000,000 over 10 years.

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 “Deficit Reduction Im-
5 plementation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

2 In this Act, the term “qualified bill” means a bill in
3 the House of Representatives or Senate that—

4 (1)(A) has not fewer than 6 sponsors who cau-
5 cus with Democrats and 6 sponsors who caucus with
6 Republicans in the Senate; or

7 (B) has not fewer than 15 sponsors who caucus
8 with Republicans and 15 sponsors who caucus with
9 Democrats in the House;

10 (2) states as its purpose to reduce the deficit by
11 a goal of \$4,000,000,000,000, but at least
12 \$1,500,000,000,000, over the period of fiscal years
13 2012 through 2021; and

14 (3) specifies that the qualified bill is being in-
15 troduced pursuant to this Act.

16 **SEC. 3. CONSIDERATION OF BIPARTISAN DEFICIT REDUC-**
17 **TION BILLS.**

18 (a) INTRODUCTION DEADLINE.—Not later than Feb-
19 ruary 29, 2012, any Senator or Member of the House of
20 Representatives may introduce a qualified bill that shall
21 be considered as provided under subsection (c).

22 (b) REFERRAL OF A QUALIFIED BILL.—

23 (1) SENATE.—In the Senate, a qualified bill in-
24 troduced as provided by subsection (a) shall imme-
25 diately be referred to the appropriate committee or
26 committees of jurisdiction for review and reporting.

1 (2) HOUSE.—In the House, a qualified bill in-
2 troduced as provided by subsection (a) shall imme-
3 diately be referred to the appropriate committee or
4 the committees of jurisdiction for review and report-
5 ing.

6 (3) CBO.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 48
8 hours after referral to committees, the bill shall
9 be scored by CBO based on—

10 (i) current scoring guidelines;

11 (ii) a continuation of policies in effect
12 at the time the bill was introduced; and

13 (iii) the National Commission on Fis-
14 cal Responsibility and Reform plausible
15 baseline policy assumptions (referred to in
16 this Act as the “plausible baseline”).

17 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—For each bill,
18 all 3 scores referred to in subparagraph (A)
19 shall be printed in the Congressional Record
20 and shall be available online.

21 (c) PROCEEDING TO THE QUALIFIED BILL.—

22 (1) SENATE.—Not later than March 9, 2012,
23 and notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing
24 Rules of the Senate, it shall be in order for any Sen-
25 ator to move to proceed to the consideration of a

1 qualified bill (which shall have been discharged from
2 committee if not reported under subsection (b))
3 which shall be considered as provided for a joint
4 committee bill under subsections (c) and (d) of sec-
5 tion 402 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (2
6 U.S.C. 900 note) for the Senate, except that the
7 date for reporting under subsection (c)(1) of such
8 section and the date for the vote on passage under
9 subsection (c)(5) of such section shall not apply to
10 the qualified bill.

11 (2) HOUSE.—Not later than March 9, 2012, it
12 shall be in order for any Member of the House of
13 Representatives to move to proceed to the consider-
14 ation of a qualified bill (which shall have been dis-
15 charged from committee if not reported under sub-
16 section (b)) which shall be considered as provided for
17 a joint committee bill under subsections (b) and (d)
18 of section 402 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (2
19 U.S.C. 900 note) for the House of Representatives,
20 except that the date for reporting under subsection
21 (b)(1) of such section and the date for the vote on
22 passage under subsection (b)(4) of such section shall
23 not apply to the qualified bill.

24 (3) CBO.—The House or the Senate may not
25 proceed to a qualified bill under this subsection un-

1 less the scores required by subsection (b)(3) have
2 been available in the Congressional Record and on-
3 line for at least 72 hours.

4 (d) OTHER MATTERS.—

5 (1) CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.—

6 Section 402(e) of the Budget Control Act of 2011
7 (2 U.S.C. 900 note) shall apply to a qualified bill
8 passed by the other House.

9 (2) MULTIPLE QUALIFIED BILLS.—If there is
10 more than 1 qualifying bill, the qualifying bill will be
11 the bill that achieves the most deficit reduction. If
12 such bill fails to be enacted, succeeding bills may be
13 qualifying bills and shall be considered in the order
14 of the amount of deficit reduction achieved.

15 (e) VETOES.—If the President vetoes a qualified bill,
16 debate on a veto message in the Senate or the House shall
17 be one hour, equally divided between the majority and mi-
18 nority leader, or their designees.

19 (f) LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.—This section shall cease to
20 apply to a qualified bill if the qualified bill does not pass
21 both Houses of Congress not later than March 30, 2012.

22 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF BUDGET**
23 **CONTROL ACT.**

24 (a) DEBT LIMIT INCREASE.—A qualified bill that is
25 enacted, and that achieves at least \$1,500,000,000,000 in

1 deficit reduction as certified by CBO either as measured
2 by current scoring guidelines, against a continuation of
3 policies in effect at the time the bill was introduced, or
4 the plausible baseline shall be deemed to be a joint com-
5 mittee bill for purposes of section 3101A(a)(2)(A)(iii) of
6 title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) SEQUESTRATION.—A qualified bill that is en-
8 acted, and that achieves at least \$1,500,000,000,000 in
9 deficit reduction as certified by CBO either as measured
10 by current scoring guidelines, against a continuation of
11 policies in effect at the time the bill was introduced, or
12 the plausible baseline shall cancel the discretionary spend-
13 ing limits listed under section 251A of the Balanced Budg-
14 et and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
15 901a).

16 **SEC. 5. RULEMAKING.**

17 This Act is enacted by Congress—

18 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
19 the House of Representatives and the Senate, re-
20 spectively, and as such they shall be considered as
21 part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of
22 that House to which they specifically apply, and
23 such rules shall supersede other rules only to the ex-
24 tent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

1 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
2 right of either House to change such rules (so far
3 as relating to such House) at any time, in the same
4 manner, and to the same extent as in the case of
5 any other rule of such House.

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