

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 724

To provide flexibility to agencies on determining what employees are essential personnel in implementing the sequester.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 15, 2013

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide flexibility to agencies on determining what employees are essential personnel in implementing the sequester.

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 “Essential Services Act
5 of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “agency” means an Executive
2 agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United
3 States Code); and

4 (2) the term “essential employee” means an
5 employee that performs work involving the safety of
6 human life or the protection of property, as deter-
7 mined by the head of the agency.

8 **SEC. 3. FURLOUGH FLEXIBILITY.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the sequester re-
10 quired by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
11 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as ordered on March
12 1, 2013, the head of an agency may furlough such employ-
13 ees of the agency as are required to achieve the funding
14 reduction required by the sequester for the agency, but
15 shall exempt essential employees.

16 (b) TRANSFER OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES.—The
17 head of an agency may transfer budgetary resources with-
18 in their agency to carry out subsection (a), subject to the
19 limitation that transfers may only be made to maintain
20 essential employees.

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