

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 382

To eliminate the automatic inflation increases for discretionary programs built into the baseline projections and require budget estimates to be compared with the prior year's level.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

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## A BILL

To eliminate the automatic inflation increases for discretionary programs built into the baseline projections and require budget estimates to be compared with the prior year's level.

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 2015".

1 **SEC. 2. CHANGES IN THE BASELINE.**

2 Section 257(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-  
3 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(c)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by  
6 striking all that follows “current year,” and insert-  
7 ing “excluding resources designated as an emergency  
8 requirement and any resources provided in supple-  
9 mental appropriation laws.”;

10 (2) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and  
11 (5);

12 (3) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-  
13 graph (2); and

14 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so re-  
15 designated, the following:

16 “(3) NO ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—No  
17 adjustment shall be made for inflation or for any  
18 other factor.”.

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

20 (a) EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
21 1105(a)(5) of title 31, United States Code, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 “(5) except as provided in subsection (b), esti-  
24 mated expenditures and appropriations for the cur-  
25 rent year and estimated expenditures and proposed  
26 appropriations the President decides are necessary

1 to support the Government in the fiscal year for  
2 which the budget is submitted and at least the 4 fis-  
3 cal years following that year, and, except for detailed  
4 budget estimates, the percentage change from the  
5 current year to the fiscal year for which the budget  
6 is submitted for estimated expenditures and for ap-  
7 propriations.”.

8 (b) RECEIPTS.—Section 1105(a)(6) of title 31,  
9 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

10 “(6)(A) estimated receipts of the Government  
11 in the current year and the fiscal year for which the  
12 budget is submitted and at least the 4 fiscal years  
13 after that year under—

14 “(i) laws in effect when the budget is sub-  
15 mitted; and

16 “(ii) proposals in the budget to increase  
17 revenues; and

18 “(B) the percentage change (in the case of each  
19 category referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-  
20 paragraph (A)) between the current year and the fis-  
21 cal year for which the budget is submitted and be-  
22 tween the current year and each of the 9 fiscal years  
23 after the fiscal year for which the budget is sub-  
24 mitted.”.

1           (c) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.—Section 1105(a)(12)  
2 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4           “(12) for each proposal in the budget for legis-  
5 lation that establishes or expands a Government ac-  
6 tivity or function a table showing—

7                   “(A)(i) the amount proposed in the budget  
8 for appropriation and for expenditure because  
9 of the proposal in the fiscal year for which the  
10 budget is submitted;

11                   “(ii) the estimated appropriation required  
12 because of the proposal for each of at least the  
13 4 fiscal years after that year that the proposal  
14 will be in effect; and

15                   “(iii) the estimated amount for the same  
16 activity or function, if any, in the current fiscal  
17 year; and

18                   “(B) except for detailed budget estimates,  
19 the percentage change (in the case of each cat-  
20 egory referred to in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of  
21 subparagraph (A)) between the current year  
22 and the fiscal year for which the budget is sub-  
23 mitted.”.

1 (d) COMPARISONS.—Section 1105(a)(18) of title 31,  
2 United States Code, is amended by inserting “new budget  
3 authority and” before “budget outlays”.

4 (e) EXPENDITURES AND TABLES.—Section 1105(a)  
5 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (37)  
7 (relating to a list of plans and reports) as paragraph  
8 (39); and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(40) a comparison of levels of estimated ex-  
11 penditures and proposed appropriations for each  
12 function and subfunction in the current fiscal year  
13 and the fiscal year for which the budget is sub-  
14 mitted, along with the proposed increase or decrease  
15 of spending in percentage terms for each function  
16 and subfunction.

17 “(41) a table on sources of growth in total di-  
18 rect spending under current law and as proposed in  
19 the budget submission for the budget year and at  
20 least the ensuing 9 fiscal years, which shall include  
21 changes in outlays attributable to—

22 “(A) cost-of-living adjustments;

23 “(B) changes in the number of program  
24 recipients;

1                   “(C) increases in medical care prices, utili-  
2                   zation and intensity of medical care; and

3                   “(D) residual factors.”.

4           (f) CURRENT PROGRAMS.—Section 1109(a) of title  
5 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the  
6 first sentence the following: “For discretionary spending,  
7 these estimates shall assume the levels no higher than  
8 those set forth in the discretionary spending limits under  
9 section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency  
10 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), as ad-  
11 justed, for the appropriate fiscal years (and if no such lim-  
12 its are in effect, these estimates shall assume adjusted lev-  
13 els no higher than those for the most recent fiscal year  
14 for which such levels were in effect).”.

15 **SEC. 4. THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET.**

16           Section 301(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of  
17 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(e)) is amended—

18           (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
19 following: “The basis of deliberations in developing  
20 such joint resolution shall be the estimated budg-  
21 etary levels for the preceding fiscal year. Any budg-  
22 etary levels pending before the committee and the  
23 text of the joint resolution shall be accompanied by  
24 a document comparing such levels or such text to  
25 the estimated levels of the prior fiscal year.”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the  
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(G) a comparison of levels for the current  
8 fiscal year with proposed spending and revenue  
9 levels for the subsequent fiscal years and the  
10 proposed increase or decrease of spending in  
11 percentage terms for each function.”.

12 **SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE REPORTS TO**  
13 **COMMITTEES.**

14 (a) **COMPARABLE LEVELS.**—Section 202(e)(1) of the  
15 Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)(1))  
16 is amended in the first sentence by inserting “compared  
17 to comparable levels for the current year” before the  
18 comma at the end of subparagraph (A) and before the  
19 comma at the end of subparagraph (B).

20 (b) **SOURCES OF SPENDING GROWTH.**—Section  
21 202(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2  
22 U.S.C. 602(e)(1)) is amended by inserting after the first  
23 sentence the following: “Such report shall also include a  
24 table on sources of spending growth in total direct spend-  
25 ing, revenue, deficit, and debt for the budget year and the

1 ensuing 4 fiscal years, which shall include changes in out-  
2 lays attributable to (A) cost-of-living adjustments, (B)  
3 changes in the number of program recipients, (C) in-  
4 creases in medical care prices, utilization and intensity of  
5 medical care, and (D) residual factors.”.

6 (c) COMPARISON OF LEVELS.—Section 308(a)(1)(B)  
7 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C.  
8 639(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “and shall include  
9 a comparison of those levels to comparable levels for the  
10 current fiscal year” before “, if timely submitted”.

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