

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2930

To provide that Congress may not recess, adjourn, or consider other matters after August 1 of any year if Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills with respect to the next fiscal year.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2018

Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. PERDUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide that Congress may not recess, adjourn, or consider other matters after August 1 of any year if Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills with respect to the next fiscal year.

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 “No Budget, No Vaca-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NO BUDGET, NO VACATION.**

2 Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
3 (2 U.S.C. 631) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “The timetable” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The timetable”; and

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

8 “(b) NO BUDGET, NO VACATION.—

9 “(1) LIMITS IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On and after August
12 1 of each year, if both Houses of Congress have
13 not approved a concurrent resolution on the
14 budget for the next fiscal year and have not
15 passed all the regular appropriations bills for
16 the next fiscal year—

17 “(i) it shall not be in order in the
18 Senate or the House of Representatives—

19 “(I) to move to recess or to ad-
20 journ; or

21 “(II) to move to proceed to the
22 consideration of any matter other
23 than a concurrent resolution on the
24 budget or a regular appropriations
25 bill; and

1 “(ii) no amounts may be obligated or
2 expended for official travel by a Member of
3 Congress.

4 “(B) NO WAIVER.—Notwithstanding sec-
5 tion 904(b), subparagraph (A) may not be
6 waived or suspended in the Senate or the House
7 of Representatives.

8 “(C) PERMANENT LAW.—Notwithstanding
9 section 904(a), subparagraph (A)(ii) is not en-
10 acted as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
11 the Senate or the House of Representatives.

12 “(2) ADDITIONAL LIMITS IN THE SENATE.—

13 “(A) DETERMINATION OF PRESENCE OF A
14 QUORUM.—In the Senate, on and after August
15 1 of each year, if both Houses of Congress have
16 not approved a concurrent resolution on the
17 budget for the next fiscal year and have not
18 passed all the regular appropriations bills for
19 the next fiscal year, and notwithstanding any
20 provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate,
21 the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to
22 call the roll to ascertain the presence of a
23 quorum every 6 hours.

24 “(B) LACK OF QUORUM.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If, upon a calling
2 of the roll under subparagraph (A), it shall
3 be ascertained that a quorum is not
4 present—

5 “(I) the Presiding Officer shall
6 direct the Clerk to call the names of
7 any absent Senators; and

8 “(II) following the calling of the
9 names under subclause (I), the Pre-
10 siding Officer shall, without inter-
11 vening motion or debate, submit to
12 the Senate by a yea-and-nay vote the
13 question: ‘Shall the Sergeant-at-Arms
14 be directed to request the attendance
15 of absent Senators?’.

16 “(ii) DIRECTION TO COMPEL ATTEND-
17 ANCE.—If a quorum is not present 30
18 minutes after the time at which the vote
19 on a question submitted under clause (i)(ii)
20 starts, the Presiding Officer shall, without
21 intervening motion or debate, submit to
22 the Senate by a yea-and-nay vote the ques-
23 tion: ‘Shall the Sergeant-at-Arms be di-
24 rected to compel the attendance of absent
25 Senators?’.

1 “(iii) ARREST OF ABSENT SEN-
2 ATORS.—Effective 30 minutes after the
3 Sergeant-at-Arms is directed to compel the
4 attendance of absent Senators under clause
5 (ii), if any Senator not excused under rule
6 XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is
7 not in attendance, the Senate shall be
8 deemed to have agreed an order that reads
9 as follows: ‘Ordered, That the Sergeant-at-
10 Arms be directed to arrest absent Sen-
11 ators; that warrants for the arrests of all
12 Senators not sick nor excused be issued
13 under the signature of the Presiding Offi-
14 cer and attested by the Secretary, and that
15 such warrants be executed without delay.’.

16 “(iv) REPORTS.—Not less frequently
17 than once per hour during proceedings to
18 compel the attendance of absent Senators,
19 the Sergeant-at-Arms shall submit to the
20 Senate a report on absent Senators, which
21 shall—

22 “(I) be laid before the Senate;

23 “(II) identify each Senator whose
24 absence is excused;

1 “(III) identify each Senator who
2 is absent without excuse; and

3 “(IV) for each Senator identified
4 under subclause (III), provide infor-
5 mation on the current location of the
6 Senator.

7 “(C) REGAINING THE FLOOR.—If a Sen-
8 ator had been recognized to speak at the time
9 a call of the roll to ascertain the presence of a
10 quorum was initiated under subparagraph (A),
11 and if the presence of a quorum is established,
12 that Senator shall be entitled to be recognized
13 to speak.

14 “(D) NO SUSPENSION OF REQUIRE-
15 MENTS.—The Presiding Officer may not enter-
16 tain a request to suspend the operation of this
17 paragraph by unanimous consent or motion.

18 “(E) CONSISTENCY WITH SENATE EMER-
19 GENCY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.—Nothing
20 in this paragraph shall be construed in a man-
21 ner that is inconsistent with S. Res. 296 (108th
22 Congress) or any other emergency procedures
23 or practices of the Senate.”.

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