116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3982

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for procedures for establishing discretionary spending limits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. Flores (for himself and Mr. Womack) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for procedures for establishing discretionary spending limits, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop The Ever-growing Wasteful And Reckless Deficits Act” or the “STEWARD Act”.

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SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PROCEDURES TO ESTABLISH LIMITS ON DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

“SEC. 316. (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon adoption by Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year under section 301 or 304 that sets forth a discretionary spending limit for that fiscal year, the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall introduce the joint resolution described in subsection (b) and it shall be in order to consider such joint resolution in the House anytime after introduction without intervening motion.

“(b) TITLE AND TEXT OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—The joint resolution described in subsection (a)—

“(1) shall have the following title: ‘A joint resolution amending section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to establish the discretionary spending limit for fiscal year _______’, for the fiscal year of the applicable concurrent resolution on the budget for the discretionary spending limit;
“(2) may establish a discretionary spending
limit for any of the 9 fiscal years following the fiscal
year described in paragraph (1); and
“(3) shall have in the matter after the resolving
clause solely the text contained in the separate sec-
tion described in subsection (e).
“(c) Text for Discretionary Spending Limit.—
A concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year
shall include, as a separate section, text setting forth an
amendment to section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and
Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to establish a dis-
cretionary spending limit for that fiscal year or any of the
9 ensuing fiscal years.
“(d) Expedited Consideration in House of
Representatives.—
“(1) Proceeding to Consideration.—
“(A) In general.—It shall be in order at
any time to move to proceed to consider the
joint resolution in the House of Representa-
tives.
“(B) Procedure.—For a motion to pro-
cceed to consider the joint resolution—
“(i) all points of order against the
motion are waived;
“(ii) such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolution;

“(iii) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion;

“(iv) the motion shall not be debatable; and

“(v) a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(2) CONSIDERATION.—When the House of Representatives proceeds to consideration of the joint resolution—

“(A) the joint resolution shall be considered as read;

“(B) all points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived;

“(C) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except 10 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent;
“(D) an amendment to the joint resolution shall not be in order; and

“(E) a motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(3) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—In the House of Representatives, the joint resolution shall be agreed to upon a vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present.

“(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—

“(1) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon receipt in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

“(2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution.

“(B) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution—

“(i) all points of order against the motion are waived;

“(ii) the motion is not debatable;
“(iii) the motion is not subject to a
motion to postpone;

“(iv) a motion to reconsider the vote
by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
agreed to shall not be in order; and

“(v) if the motion is agreed to, the
joint resolution shall remain the unfinished
business until disposed of.

“(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Senate proceeds
to consideration of the joint resolution—

“(i) all points of order against the
joint resolution (and against consideration
of the joint resolution) are waived;

“(ii) consideration of the joint resolu-
tion, and all debatable motions and appeals
in connection therewith, shall be limited to
not more than 30 hours, which shall be di-
vided equally between the majority and mi-
nority leaders or their designees;

“(iii) a motion further to limit debate
is in order and not debatable;

“(iv) an amendment to, a motion to
postpone, or a motion to commit the joint
resolution is not in order; and
“(v) a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business is not in order.

“(B) Vote on Passage.—In the Senate—

“(i) the vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate; and

“(ii) the joint resolution shall be agreed to upon a vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present.

“(C) Rulings of the Chair on Procedure.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of this subsection or the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to the joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(f) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that if a discretionary spending limit for a fiscal year established by any joint resolution pursuant to this section is greater than the baseline level for that fiscal year, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, an amount equal to the difference should be offset.”.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 301(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) include the matter described in section 316.”.

c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 315 the following new item:

“Sec. 316. Procedures to establish limits on discretionary spending.”.