

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8979

To clarify that the baseline is based on current laws and the assumption of continuation of current levels of discretionary appropriations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2024

Mr. CLINE (for himself and Mr. NORMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To clarify that the baseline is based on current laws and the assumption of continuation of current levels of discretionary appropriations, and for other purposes.

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 Bias in the Base-
5 line Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF BASELINE CALCULATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 257 of the Balanced
8 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2
9 U.S.C. 907) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For any budget year, the base-
4 line refers to a projection, based on current laws and the
5 assumption of continuation of current levels of discre-
6 tionary appropriations, of current-year levels of new budg-
7 et authority, outlays, revenues, and the surplus or deficit
8 into the budget year and the outyears based on laws en-
9 acted through the applicable date.”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Laws providing or creating
14 direct spending and receipts are assumed to operate
15 in the manner specified in those laws for each such
16 year.”;

17 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

18 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
19 paragraph (2); and

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in the second sentence of paragraph
22 (1), by striking all that follows after “current
23 year,” through the period and inserting “ex-
24 cluding resources designated as an emergency

1 requirement and any resources provided in sup-
 2 plemental appropriation laws.”;

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

5 (C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
 6 paragraph (2); and

7 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
 8 following:

9 “(3) NO ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—No
 10 adjustment shall be made for inflation or for any
 11 other factor.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

13 (1) Section 202(e)(1) of the Congressional
 14 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)(1)) is amend-
 15 ed—

16 (A) by inserting “and” before “(B) the lev-
 17 els”; and

18 (B) by striking “, and (C)” and all that
 19 follows through “1985”.

20 (2) Section 403(a)(3) of the Social Security Act
 21 (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3)) is amended—

22 (A) by striking subparagraph (G); and

23 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as
 24 subparagraph (G).

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