

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6040

To establish the Accountable Budgeting Commission.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Budget

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## A BILL

To establish the Accountable Budgeting Commission.

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 “Accountable Budgeting  
5       Commission Act of 2006”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8               (1) President Lyndon Johnson created the  
9       Commission on Budget Concepts in 1967 by execu-  
10       tive order to assess the basic budget concepts that  
11       underlie the Federal budget process;



1 **SEC. 4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

3 (1) The duties of the Commission shall in-  
4 clude—

5 (A) an identification of activities, entities,  
6 and transactions to be included in the Federal  
7 budget and the criteria for making such deter-  
8 minations;

9 (B) an assessment of the appropriate  
10 measures of Federal financial commitments to  
11 allocate resources and establish fiscal policy;

12 (C) an evaluation of the differences be-  
13 tween user fees and revenue, and between var-  
14 ious forms of user fees, and the circumstances  
15 when such fees should be accounted for as off-  
16 setting spending or adding to revenue;

17 (D) an appraisal of the appropriate usage  
18 of cash and accrual-based measures for various  
19 types of Federal financial commitments, such  
20 as Government insurance, loan guarantees, and  
21 leasing;

22 (E) recommendations of the appropriate  
23 means for recognizing the cost of acquisition  
24 and disposition of various types of nonfinancial  
25 assets;

1 (F) an evaluation of appropriate measures  
2 of Federal debt, borrowing, and means of fi-  
3 nancing;

4 (G) an assessment of the adequacy of the  
5 current account and fund structure for record-  
6 ing revenue and expenditures for specific classes  
7 of governmental activities;

8 (H) recommendations for changes in Fed-  
9 eral budget practices to accommodate the Fed-  
10 eral Accounting Standards Advisory Board's  
11 recommended accounting standards;

12 (I) recommendations for changes in budget  
13 practices to reflect the Government's multi-year  
14 acquisitions;

15 (J) the appropriate means of accounting  
16 for the financial risk the Government incurs  
17 from contractual and implied commitments; and

18 (K) an evaluation of the usage of dynamic  
19 scoring analysis.

20 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
21 (1), the Commission shall make no findings, conclu-  
22 sions, or recommendations respecting the following:

23 (A) Social security and medicare.

24 (B) Government-sponsored enterprises.

25 (b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

1           (1) CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.—The Commission  
2           may hold hearings, take testimony, receive evidence,  
3           and undertake such other activities necessary to  
4           carry out its duties.

5           (2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Commis-  
6           sion may secure directly from any department or  
7           agency of the United States information necessary  
8           to carry out its duties. Upon request of the Chair of  
9           the Commission, the head of that department or  
10          agency shall furnish that information to the Com-  
11          mission.

12          (3) POSTAL SERVICE.—The Commission may  
13          use the United States mails in the same manner and  
14          under the same conditions as other departments and  
15          agencies of the United States.

16 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

17          (a) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be com-  
18          posed of 12 voting members and 4 nonvoting members,  
19          as follows:

20                (1) Two members appointed by the chairman of  
21                the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

22                (2) Two members appointed by the chairman of  
23                the Committee on the Budget of the House of Rep-  
24                resentatives.

1           (3) Two members appointed by the ranking  
2 member of the Committee on the Budget of the Sen-  
3 ate.

4           (4) Two members appointed by the ranking  
5 member of the Committee on the Budget of the  
6 House of Representatives.

7           (5) One member appointed by the Speaker of  
8 the House of Representatives.

9           (6) One member appointed by the President of  
10 the Senate.

11           (7) One member appointed by the minority  
12 leader of the House of Representatives.

13           (8) One member appointed by the minority  
14 leader of the Senate.

15           (9) The Director of the Office of Management  
16 and Budget (or his designee), who shall be a non-  
17 voting member.

18           (10) The Secretary of the Treasury (or his des-  
19 ignee), who shall be a nonvoting member.

20           (11) The Comptroller General of the United  
21 States (or his designee), who shall be a nonvoting  
22 member.

23           (12) The Director of the Congressional Budget  
24 Office (or his designee), who shall be a nonvoting  
25 member.

1 (b) QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM.—

2 (1) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed to  
3 the Commission pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

4 (A) have expertise and experience in the  
5 fields or disciplines related to the subject areas  
6 to be considered by the Commission; and

7 (B) not be Members of Congress, or offi-  
8 cers or employees of the Government (other  
9 than those nonvoting members described in  
10 paragraphs (9) through (12) of subsection (a)).

11 (2) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of an  
12 appointment to the Commission shall be for the life  
13 of the Commission.

14 (3) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—A Chair and Vice  
15 Chair shall be elected from among the voting mem-  
16 bers of the Commission. The Vice Chair shall as-  
17 sume the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

18 (c) MEETINGS; QUORUM; AND VACANCIES.—

19 (1) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at  
20 least once a month on a day to be decided by the  
21 Commission. The Commission may meet at such  
22 other times at the call of the Chair or of a majority  
23 of its voting members. The meetings of the Commis-  
24 sion shall be open to the public, unless by public

1 vote, the Commission shall determine to close a  
2 meeting or any portion of a meeting to the public.

3 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting mem-  
4 bership shall constitute a quorum of the Commis-  
5 sion, except that 3 or more voting members may  
6 conduct hearings.

7 (3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission  
8 shall be filled in the same manner in which the origi-  
9 nal appointment was filled under subsection (a).

10 (d) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—Members of  
11 the Commission shall serve without pay for their service  
12 on the Commission, but may receive travel expenses, in-  
13 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized  
14 for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter  
15 57 of title 5, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 6. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

17 (a) STAFF.—With the advance approval of the Com-  
18 mission, the executive director may appoint such personnel  
19 as is appropriate. The staff of the Commission shall be  
20 appointed without regard to political affiliation and with-  
21 out regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,  
22 governing appointments in the competitive service, and  
23 may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter  
24 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating  
25 to classifications and General Schedule pay rates.

1           (b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Chairman shall ap-  
2 point an executive director, who shall be paid the rate of  
3 basic pay for level II of the Executive Schedule.

4           (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the advance  
5 approval of the Commission, the executive director may  
6 procure temporary and intermittent services under section  
7 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

8           (d) TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIST-  
9 ANCE.—Upon the request of the Commission—

10           (1) the head of any agency, office, or establish-  
11 ment within the executive or legislative branches of  
12 the United States shall provide, without reimburse-  
13 ment, such technical assistance as the Commission  
14 determines is necessary to carry out its duties; and

15           (2) the Administrator of the General Services  
16 Administration shall provide, on a reimbursable  
17 basis, such administrative support services as the  
18 Commission may require.

19           (e) DETAIL OF FEDERAL PERSONNEL.—Upon the  
20 request of the Commission, the head of an agency, office,  
21 or establishment in the executive or legislative branch of  
22 the United States is authorized to detail, without reim-  
23 bursement, any of the personnel of that agency, office, or  
24 establishment to the Commission to assist the Commission  
25 in carrying out its duties. Any such detail shall not inter-

1 rupt or otherwise affect the employment status or privi-  
2 leges of that employee.

3 (f) CBO AND OMB.—The Directors of the Congres-  
4 sional Budget Office and the Office of Management and  
5 Budget shall provide the Commission with their latest re-  
6 search on the accuracy of its past budget and economic  
7 projections. The Commission shall work with the Directors  
8 of the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Man-  
9 agement and Budget in their efforts to explain the factors  
10 affecting the accuracy of budget projections.

11 **SEC. 7. REPORT.**

12 Not later than one year after the date of enactment  
13 of this Act, the Commission shall transmit a report to the  
14 President and to each House of Congress. The report shall  
15 contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclu-  
16 sions of the Commission, together with its recommenda-  
17 tions for such legislative or administrative actions as it  
18 considers appropriate. No finding, conclusion, or rec-  
19 ommendation may be made by the Commission unless ap-  
20 proved by a majority of those voting and at least two mem-  
21 bers serving under paragraph (1) or (4) of such section,  
22 a quorum being present. At the request of any Commis-  
23 sion member, the report shall include that member's dis-  
24 senting findings, conclusions, or recommendations.

1 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

2       The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the  
3 date of transmission of the report required in section 7.

4 **SEC. 9. FUNDING.**

5       There are authorized to be appropriated not more  
6 than \$1,500,000 to carry out this Act. Sums so appro-  
7 priated shall remain available until expended.

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