

## Union Calendar No. 94

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1871

[Report No. 113–129]

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985  
to reform the budget baseline.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2013

Mr. WOODALL (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget

JUNE 25, 2013

Additional sponsors: Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. AMASH, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. NUGENT

JUNE 25, 2013

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

# **A BILL**

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit  
Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline.

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 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. THE BASELINE.**

7       Section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency  
8 Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 257. THE BASELINE.**

10       “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) For any fiscal year, the base-  
11 line refers to a projection of current-year levels of new  
12 budget authority, outlays, or receipts and the surplus or  
13 deficit for the current year, the budget year, and the ensu-  
14 ing nine outyears based on laws enacted through the appli-  
15 cable date.

16       “(2) The baselines referred to in paragraph (1) shall  
17 be prepared annually.

18       “(b) DIRECT SPENDING AND RECEIPTS.—For the  
19 budget year and each outyear, estimates for direct spend-  
20 ing in the baseline shall be calculated as follows:

21               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Laws providing or creating  
22 direct spending and receipts are assumed to operate  
23 in the manner specified in those laws for each such  
24 year and funding for entitlement authority is as-

1       sumed to be adequate to make all payments required  
2       by those laws.

3           “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—(A)(i) No program estab-  
4       lished by a law enacted on or before the date of en-  
5       actment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with  
6       estimated current year outlays greater than  
7       \$50,000,000 shall be assumed to expire in the budg-  
8       et year or the outyears. The scoring of new pro-  
9       grams with estimated outlays greater than  
10      \$50,000,000 a year shall be based on scoring by the  
11      Committees on the Budget or OMB, as applicable.  
12      OMB, CBO, and the Committees on the Budget  
13      shall consult on the scoring of such programs where  
14      there are differences between CBO and OMB.

15           “(ii) On the expiration of the suspension of a  
16      provision of law that is suspended under section 171  
17      of Public Law 104–127 and that authorizes a pro-  
18      gram with estimated fiscal year outlays that are  
19      greater than \$50,000,000, for purposes of clause (i),  
20      the program shall be assumed to continue to operate  
21      in the same manner as the program operated imme-  
22      diately before the expiration of the suspension.

23           “(B) The increase for veterans’ compensation  
24      for a fiscal year is assumed to be the same as that

1 required by law for veterans' pensions unless other-  
2 wise provided by law enacted in that session.

3 “(C) Excise taxes dedicated to a trust fund, if  
4 expiring, are assumed to be extended at current  
5 rates.

6 “(D) If any law expires before the budget year  
7 or any outyear, then any program with estimated  
8 current year outlays greater than \$50,000,000 that  
9 operates under that law shall be assumed to con-  
10 tinue to operate under that law as in effect imme-  
11 diately before its expiration.

12 “(3) HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND.—  
13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the re-  
14 ceipts and disbursements of the Hospital Insurance  
15 Trust Fund shall be included in all calculations re-  
16 quired by this Act.

17 “(c) DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.—For the budget  
18 year and each of the nine ensuing outyears, the baseline  
19 shall be calculated using the following assumptions regard-  
20 ing all amounts other than those covered by subsection  
21 (b):

22 “(1) ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS.—Budgetary  
23 resources other than unobligated balances shall be at  
24 the level provided for the budget year in full-year ap-  
25 propriation Acts. If for any account a full-year ap-

1       appropriation has not yet been enacted, budgetary re-  
2       sources other than unobligated balances shall be at  
3       the level available in the current year.

4               “(2) CURRENT-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.—If, for  
5       any account, a continuing appropriation is in effect  
6       for less than the entire current year, then the cur-  
7       rent-year amount shall be assumed to equal the  
8       amount that would be available if that continuing  
9       appropriation covered the entire fiscal year. If law  
10      permits the transfer of budget authority among  
11      budget accounts in the current year, the current-  
12      year level for an account shall reflect transfers ac-  
13      complished by the submission of, or assumed for the  
14      current year in, the President’s original budget for  
15      the budget year.

16             “(d) UP-TO-DATE CONCEPTS.—In calculating the  
17      baseline for the budget year or each of the nine ensuing  
18      outyears, current-year amounts shall be calculated using  
19      the concepts and definitions that are required for that  
20      budget year.

21             “(e) ASSET SALES.—Amounts realized from the sale  
22      of an asset shall not be included in estimates under section  
23      251, 251A, 252, or 253 of this part or section 5 of the  
24      Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 if that sale would

1 result in a financial cost to the Government as determined  
2 pursuant to scorekeeping guidelines.

3       “(f) LONG-TERM BUDGET OUTLOOK.—On or before  
4 July 1 of each year, ~~OMB~~ *CBO* shall submit to the Com-  
5 mittees on the Budget of the House of Representatives  
6 and the Senate the Long-Term Budget Outlook for the  
7 fiscal year commencing on October 1 of that year and at  
8 least the ensuing 40 fiscal years.”.

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