

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1896

To eliminate the automatic inflation increases for discretionary programs built into the baseline projections and require budget estimates to be compared with the prior year's level.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

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## A BILL

To eliminate the automatic inflation increases for discretionary programs built into the baseline projections and require budget estimates to be compared with the prior year's level.

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 Elimination  
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHANGES IN THE BASELINE.**

7 Section 257(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-  
8 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended—

1           (1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by  
2 striking everything that follows “current year,” and  
3 inserting “excluding resources designated as an  
4 emergency requirement and any resources provided  
5 in supplemental appropriation laws.”;

6           (2) by striking paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and  
7 (5);

8           (3) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-  
9 graph (2); and

10          (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12           “(3) NO ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—No  
13 adjustment shall be made for inflation or for any  
14 other factor.”.

15 **SEC. 3. THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.**

16          (a) EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS.—Para-  
17 graph (5) of section 1105(a) of title 31, United States  
18 Code, is amended to read as follows:

19           “(5) except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
20 section, estimated expenditures and appropriations  
21 for the current year and estimated expenditures and  
22 proposed appropriations the President decides are  
23 necessary to support the Government in the fiscal  
24 year for which the budget is submitted and at least  
25 the 4 fiscal years following that year, and, except for

1 detailed budget estimates, the percentage change  
2 from the current year to the fiscal year for which  
3 the budget is submitted for estimated expenditures  
4 and for appropriations.”.

5 (b) RECEIPTS.—Section 1105(a)(6) of title 31,  
6 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 “(6) estimated receipts of the Government in  
8 the current year and the fiscal year for which the  
9 budget is submitted and at least the 4 fiscal years  
10 after that year under—

11 “(A) laws in effect when the budget is sub-  
12 mitted; and

13 “(B) proposals in the budget to increase  
14 revenues,

15 and the percentage change (in the case of each cat-  
16 egory referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B)) be-  
17 tween the current year and the fiscal year for which  
18 the budget is submitted and between the current  
19 year and each of the 9 fiscal years after the fiscal  
20 year for which the budget is submitted.”.

21 (c) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.—Section 1105(a)(12)  
22 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as  
23 follows:

1           “(12) for each proposal in the budget for legis-  
2           lation that establishes or expands a Government ac-  
3           tivity or function, a table showing—

4                   “(A) the amount proposed in the budget  
5                   for appropriation and for expenditure because  
6                   of the proposal in the fiscal year for which the  
7                   budget is submitted;

8                   “(B) the estimated appropriation required  
9                   because of the proposal for each of at least the  
10                  4 fiscal years after that year that the proposal  
11                  will be in effect; and

12                  “(C) the estimated amount for the same  
13                  activity or function, if any, in the current fiscal  
14                  year,

15           and, except for detailed budget estimates, the per-  
16           centage change (in the case of each category re-  
17           ferred to in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C)) be-  
18           tween the current year and the fiscal year for which  
19           the budget is submitted.”.

20           (d) COMPARISONS.—Section 1105(a)(18) of title 31,  
21           United States Code, is amended by inserting “new budget  
22           authority and” before “budget outlays”.

23           (e) EXPENDITURES AND TABLES.—Section 1105(a)  
24           of title 31, United States Code, is amended by—

1           (1) redesignating paragraph (37) following  
2 paragraph (38) as paragraph (39); and

3           (2) adding at the end the following:

4           “(40) a comparison of levels of estimated ex-  
5 penditures and proposed appropriations for each  
6 function and subfunction in the current fiscal year  
7 and the fiscal year for which the budget is sub-  
8 mitted, along with the proposed increase or decrease  
9 of spending in percentage terms for each function  
10 and subfunction.

11           “(41) a table on sources of growth in total di-  
12 rect spending under current law and as proposed in  
13 this budget submission for the budget year and at  
14 least the ensuing 9 fiscal years, which shall include  
15 changes in outlays attributable to the following: cost-  
16 of-living adjustments; changes in the number of pro-  
17 gram recipients; increases in medical care prices,  
18 utilization and intensity of medical care; and resid-  
19 ual factors.”.

20           (f) CURRENT PROGRAMS.—Section 1109(a) of title  
21 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the  
22 first sentence the following: “For discretionary spending,  
23 these estimates shall assume the levels no higher than  
24 those set forth in the discretionary spending limits under  
25 section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency

1 Deficit Control Act of 1985, as adjusted, for the appro-  
 2 priate fiscal years (and if no such limits are in effect, these  
 3 estimates shall assume adjusted levels no higher than  
 4 those for the most recent fiscal year for which such levels  
 5 were in effect).”.

6 **SEC. 4. THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET.**

7 Section 301(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of  
 8 1974 (as amended by section 103) is further amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting at the end  
 10 the following: “The basis of deliberations in devel-  
 11 oping such joint resolution shall be the estimated  
 12 budgetary levels for the preceding fiscal year. Any  
 13 budgetary levels pending before the committee and  
 14 the text of the joint resolution shall be accompanied  
 15 by a document comparing such levels or such text to  
 16 the estimated levels of the prior fiscal year.”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
 19 “and” after the semicolon;

20 (B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the  
 21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (C) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(G) a comparison of levels for the current  
 24 fiscal year with proposed spending and revenue  
 25 levels for the subsequent fiscal years along with

1           the proposed increase or decrease of spending  
2           in percentage terms for each function.”.

3 **SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE REPORTS TO**  
4           **COMMITTEES.**

5           (a) **COMPARABLE LEVELS.**—The first sentence of  
6 section 202(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
7 is amended by inserting “compared to comparable levels  
8 for the current year” before the comma at the end of sub-  
9 paragraph (A) and before the comma at the end of sub-  
10 paragraph (B).

11          (b) **SOURCES OF SPENDING GROWTH.**—Section  
12 202(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is  
13 amended by inserting after the first sentence the following  
14 new sentence: “Such report shall also include a table on  
15 sources of spending growth in total direct spending, rev-  
16 enue, deficit, and debt for the budget year and the ensuing  
17 4 fiscal years, which shall include changes in outlays at-  
18 tributable to the following:

19                   “(A) Cost-of-living adjustments.

20                   “(B) Changes in the number of program  
21 recipients.

22                   “(C) Increases in medical care prices, utili-  
23 zation and intensity of medical care.

24                   “(D) Residual factors.”.

1           (c) COMPARISON OF LEVELS.—Section 308(a)(1)(B)  
2 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by  
3 inserting “and shall include a comparison of those levels  
4 to comparable levels for the current fiscal year” before “if  
5 timely submitted”.

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