

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4294

To limit the end strength reductions for the regular component of the Army and Marine Corps and to ensure that the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy are provided adequate resources in order to meet the National Security Strategy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2012

Mr. WEST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To limit the end strength reductions for the regular component of the Army and Marine Corps and to ensure that the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy are provided adequate resources in order to meet the National Security Strategy.

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 “Limited End Strength
5 Reduction Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS FOR**
2 **REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE ARMY AND**
3 **MARINE CORPS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) The President’s fiscal year 2013 budget re-
7 quest provides for a reduction in the end strength
8 for the regular and reserve components of the
9 Armed Forces by 31,300 members and anticipates
10 an additional reduction of 92,600 members over the
11 subsequent four years.

12 (2) The pace and size of these proposed reduc-
13 tions are inappropriate while the United States is
14 still engaged in armed conflict in Afghanistan and,
15 if implemented, the reductions will undermine the
16 ability of the Armed Forces to maintain a robust
17 global security posture and increase security risks
18 for the United States.

19 (3) A reduction in force structure and end
20 strength will subject members of the Armed Forces
21 and their families to diminished dwell time, repeated
22 deployments, and excessive stress when the assump-
23 tions upon which the reductions are based prove to
24 be incorrect.

25 (b) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Subject to sub-
26 sections (c) and (d), if the President determines that a

1 reduction in end strength of the regular component of the
2 Army or Marine Corps (or both) is necessary for any of
3 fiscal years 2014 through 2017, the President shall submit
4 to Congress, with the budget request for that fiscal year,
5 a certification that the reduction in end strength, should
6 the assumptions of the National Security Strategy pre-
7 scribed by the President in the most recent annual na-
8 tional security strategy report under section 108 of the
9 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a) prove to
10 be incorrect, will not—

11 (1) undermine the ability of the Armed Forces
12 to meet the requirements of the National Security
13 Strategy;

14 (2) increase security risks for the United
15 States; or

16 (3) compel members of the Armed Forces to en-
17 dure diminished dwell time, and repeated deploy-
18 ments.

19 (c) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS.—

20 (1) ARMY.—The end strength of the regular
21 component of the Army shall not be reduced by
22 more than 15,000 members during each of fiscal
23 years 2014 through 2017 from the end strength of
24 the regular component of the Army at the end of the
25 preceding fiscal year.

1 (2) MARINE CORPS.—The end strength of the
2 regular component of the Marine Corps shall not be
3 reduced by more than 5,000 members during each
4 of fiscal years 2014 through 2017 from the end
5 strength of the regular component of the Marine
6 Corps at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

7 (d) BUDGETING REQUIREMENT.—The budget for the
8 Department of Defense for each of fiscal years 2014
9 through 2017 as submitted to Congress—

10 (1) shall include amounts for maintaining an
11 end strength of the regular component of the Army
12 and the Marine Corps sufficient to comply with the
13 active duty end strengths prescribed in section
14 691(b) of title 10, United States Code; and

15 (2) shall not rely on any emergency, supple-
16 mental, or overseas contingency operations funding.

○