

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 397

To require that the President transmit to Congress, that the congressional Budget Committees report, and that the Congress consider a balanced budget for each fiscal year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require that the President transmit to Congress, that the congressional Budget Committees report, and that the Congress consider a balanced budget for each fiscal year.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **TITLE I—AMENDMENT TO TITLE 31,**
2 **UNITED STATES CODE**

3 **SEC. 101. SUBMISSION OF BALANCED BUDGET BY THE**
4 **PRESIDENT.**

5 Section 1105 of title 31, United States code, is
6 amended by inserting at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(g)(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), any
9 budget submitted to Congress pursuant to subsection (a)
10 for the ensuing fiscal year shall not be in deficit.

11 “(2) For any fiscal year with respect to which the
12 President determines that it is infeasible to submit a
13 budget in compliance with paragraph (1), the President
14 shall submit on the same day two budgets, one of which
15 shall be in compliance with paragraph (1), together with
16 written reasons in support of that determination.”.

17 **TITLE II—AMENDMENT TO**
18 **CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974**

19 **SEC. 201. REPORTING OF BALANCED BUDGETS BY COMMIT-**
20 **TEES ON THE BUDGET OF THE HOUSE OF**
21 **REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.**

22 Section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
23 is amended by inserting at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

25 “(j) REPORTING OF BALANCED BUDGETS.—

1 “(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), the
2 concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year
3 referred to in subsection (a) as reported by the Com-
4 mittee on the Budget of each House shall not be in
5 deficit.

6 “(2) For any fiscal year with respect to which
7 the Committee on the Budget of either House deter-
8 mines that it is infeasible to report a concurrent res-
9 olution on the budget in compliance with paragraph
10 (1) and includes written reasons in support of that
11 determination in its report accompanying a concur-
12 rent resolution on the budget, the committee shall
13 report two concurrent resolutions on the budget, one
14 of which shall be in compliance with paragraph (1).

15 “(3) Each concurrent resolution on the budget
16 reported by the Committee on the Budget of either
17 House shall contain reconciliation directives de-
18 scribed in section 310 necessary to effectuate the
19 provisions and requirements of such resolution.”.

20 **SEC. 202. PROCEDURE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
21 **TIVES.**

22 Section 305(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of
23 1974 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

24 “(8)(A) If the Committee on Rules of the
25 House of Representatives reports any rule or order

1 providing for the consideration of any concurrent
2 resolution on the budget for a fiscal year, then it
3 shall also, within the same rule or order, provide
4 for—

5 “(i) the consideration of the text of any
6 concurrent resolution on the budget for that fis-
7 cal year reported by the Committee on the
8 Budget of the House of Representatives pursu-
9 ant to section 301(j); and

10 “(ii) the consideration of the text of each
11 concurrent resolution on the budget as intro-
12 duced by the Majority Leader pursuant to sub-
13 paragraph (B);

14 and such rule or order shall assure that a separate
15 vote occurs on each such budget.

16 “(B) The Majority Leader of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives shall introduce a concurrent resolution
18 on the budget reflecting, without substantive revi-
19 sion, each budget submitted by the President pursu-
20 ant to section 1105(g) of title 31, United States
21 Code, as soon as practicable after its submission.”.

22 **SEC. 203. PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.**

23 Section 305(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of
24 1974 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

1 “(7) Notwithstanding any other rule, it shall al-
2 ways be in order in the Senate to consider an
3 amendment to a concurrent resolution on the budget
4 for a fiscal year comprising the text of any budget
5 submitted by the President for that fiscal year as
6 described in section 1105(g)(1) of title 31, United
7 States Code, and, whenever applicable, an amend-
8 ment comprising the text of any other budget sub-
9 mitted by the President for that fiscal year as de-
10 scribed in section 1105(g)(2) of title 31, United
11 States Code.”.

12 **TITLE III—EFFECTIVE DATE**

13 **SEC. 301. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made by it shall be-
15 come effective for fiscal year 1999 and shall be fully re-
16 flected in the fiscal year 1999 budget submitted by the
17 President as required by section 1105(a) of title 31, Unit-
18 ed States Code.

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