

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 297

To require greater accountability in discretionary and direct spending programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mr. CHAFFETZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Judiciary, 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

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## A BILL

To require greater accountability in discretionary and direct spending programs, and for other purposes.

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 “Review Every Dollar  
5 Act of 2017”.

1     **TITLE I—FEDERAL PROGRAM**  
2                     **SUNSET**

3     **SEC. 101. LIMITATION ON REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL**  
4                     **PROGRAMS.**

5             (a) ENFORCEMENT.—(1) It shall not be in order in  
6 the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider  
7 any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or con-  
8 ference report thereon, that reauthorizes any Federal pro-  
9 gram for a period of more than seven fiscal years.

10            (2) It shall not be in order in the House of Represent-  
11 atives or the Senate to consider any bill or joint resolution,  
12 or any amendment thereto or conference report thereon,  
13 that establishes any new Federal program with an author-  
14 ization of appropriations for a period of more than seven  
15 fiscal years.

16            (b) COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DIRECT SPENDING PRO-  
17 GRAMS.—Not later than July 31 during the second session  
18 of each Congress, each standing committee of the House  
19 of Representatives and the Senate with legislative jurisdic-  
20 tion over any direct spending program shall apply the cri-  
21 teria set forth in section 102 to determine whether any  
22 such program should be modified, terminated, or reauthor-  
23 ized.

1 **SEC. 102. CRITERIA FOR REVIEW.**

2 Any committee of the House of Representatives or  
3 the Senate with jurisdiction over any program being reau-  
4 thorized shall consider the following criteria in deter-  
5 mining whether such program should be modified, termi-  
6 nated, or reauthorized:

7 (1) The effectiveness and efficiency of the oper-  
8 ation of the program.

9 (2) Whether the program is cost effective.

10 (3) Whether the original objectives of the pro-  
11 gram have been achieved.

12 (4) Whether alternative methods exist to carry  
13 out the objectives of the program in a more cost ef-  
14 fective manner.

15 (5) The extent to which the program is duplica-  
16 tive or conflicts with other programs.

17 (6) The potential benefits of consolidating this  
18 program with similar or duplicative programs.

19 (7) The growth in cost per beneficiary or per-  
20 sons served by the program.

21 (8) The extent to which any trends, develop-  
22 ments, and emerging conditions may affect the prob-  
23 lems or needs that the program is intended to ad-  
24 dress.

25 (9) The extent it imposes mandates on State  
26 and local governments.

1           (10) The extent it impedes sustainable eco-  
2       nomic growth.

3           (11) The extent to which the program is a con-  
4       stitutionally authorized activity of the Government.

## 5       **TITLE II—DEFICIT REDUCTION** 6       **ACCOUNTS**

### 7       **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF DISCRETIONARY DEFICIT** 8       **REDUCTION ACCOUNT.**

9       (a) DISCRETIONARY DEFICIT REDUCTION AC-  
10      COUNT.—Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of  
11      1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new  
12      section:

13       “DISCRETIONARY DEFICIT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

14       “SEC. 316. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—The  
15      chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House  
16      of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on  
17      the Budget of the Senate shall each maintain an account  
18      to be known as the ‘deficit reduction discretionary ac-  
19      count’. The Account shall be divided into entries cor-  
20      responding to the subcommittees of the Committee on Ap-  
21      propriations of that House and each entry shall consist  
22      of the ‘deficit reduction balance’.

23       “(b) COMPONENTS.—Each entry shall consist only of  
24      amounts credited to it under subsection (c).

25       “(c) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO ACCOUNT.—

1           “(1) Whenever a Member of Congress offers an  
2           amendment to an appropriation bill to reduce new  
3           budget authority in any account or has the effect of  
4           reducing direct spending, that Member may state  
5           the portion of such reduction that shall be credited  
6           to—

7                   “(A) the deficit reduction balance;

8                   “(B) used to offset an increase in new  
9           budget authority in any other account; or

10                   “(C) allowed to remain within the applica-  
11           ble section 302(b) suballocation.

12           “(2) If no such statement is made, the amount  
13           of reduction in new budget authority resulting from  
14           the amendment shall be credited to the deficit reduc-  
15           tion balance, as applicable, if the amendment is  
16           agreed to.

17           “(3) Except as provided by paragraph (4), the  
18           chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the  
19           House of Representatives or Senate, as applicable,  
20           shall, upon the engrossment of any appropriation bill  
21           by the House of Representatives or Senate, as appli-  
22           cable, credit to the applicable entry balances  
23           amounts of new budget authority and outlays equal  
24           to the net amounts of reductions in budget authority

1 and in outlays resulting from amendments agreed to  
2 by that House to that bill.

3 “(4) When indicating the net amounts of reduc-  
4 tions in new budget authority and outlays resulting  
5 from amendments agreed to by the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives or Senate, as applicable, to an appro-  
7 priation bill, the chairman of the Committee on the  
8 Budget of that House shall only count those por-  
9 tions of such amendments agreed to that were so  
10 designated by the Members offering such amend-  
11 ments as amounts to be credited to the deficit reduc-  
12 tion balance.

13 “(5) The chairman of the Committee on the  
14 Budget of the House of Representatives and the  
15 chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the  
16 Senate shall each maintain a running tally of the  
17 amendments adopted reflecting increases and de-  
18 creases of budget authority in the bill as reported to  
19 its House. This tally shall be available to Members  
20 or Senators during consideration of any bill by that  
21 House.

22 “(d) CALCULATION OF SAVINGS IN DEFICIT REDUC-  
23 TION ACCOUNTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
24 AND SENATE.—

1           “(1) For the purposes of enforcing section  
2       302(a), upon the engrossment of any appropriation  
3       bill by the House of Representatives or Senate, as  
4       applicable, the amount of budget authority and out-  
5       lays calculated pursuant to subsection (c)(3) shall be  
6       counted against the 302(a) allocation provided to the  
7       Committee on Appropriations as if the amount cal-  
8       culated pursuant to subsection (c)(3) was included  
9       in the bill just engrossed.

10           “(2) For purposes of enforcing section 302(b),  
11       upon the engrossment of any appropriation bill by  
12       the House of Representatives or Senate, as applica-  
13       ble, the 302(b) allocation provided to the sub-  
14       committee for the bill just engrossed shall be deemed  
15       to have been reduced by the amount of budget au-  
16       thority and outlays calculated, pursuant to sub-  
17       section (c)(3).

18           “(e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
19       ‘appropriation bill’ means any general or special appro-  
20       priation bill, and any bill or joint resolution making sup-  
21       plemental, deficiency, or continuing appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT SPENDING REDUC-**  
2 **TION ACCOUNT.**

3 Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
4 (as amended by section 201) is further amended by adding  
5 at the end the following new section:

6 “DIRECT SPENDING DEFICIT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

7 “SEC. 317. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—The  
8 chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House  
9 of Representatives and of the Senate shall each maintain  
10 an account to be known as the ‘deficit reduction direct  
11 spending account’. The account shall be divided into en-  
12 tries corresponding to the House of Representatives or  
13 Senate committees, as applicable, that received allocations  
14 under section 302(a) in the most recently adopted concur-  
15 rent resolution on the budget, except that it shall not in-  
16 clude the Committee on Appropriations of that House and  
17 each entry shall consist of the ‘first-year deficit reduction  
18 account’ and the ‘five-year deficit reduction account’ or  
19 the period covered by the resolution on the budget for that  
20 fiscal year, as applicable.

21 “(b) COMPONENTS.—Each entry shall consist only of  
22 amounts credited to it under subsection (c). No entry of  
23 a negative amount shall be made.

24 “(c) CALCULATION OF ACCOUNT SAVINGS IN HOUSE  
25 AND SENATE.—For the purposes of enforcing section  
26 302(a), upon the engrossment of any bill, other than an



1 appropriation bill, by the House of Representatives or  
2 Senate, as applicable, the amount of budget authority and  
3 outlays calculated pursuant to subsection (d)(3) shall be  
4 counted against the 302(a) allocation provided to the ap-  
5 plicable committee or committees of that House which re-  
6 ported the bill as if the amount calculated pursuant to  
7 subsection (d)(3) was included in the bill just engrossed.

8 “(d) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO ACCOUNT.—(1)  
9 Whenever a Member or Senator, as the case may be, offers  
10 an amendment to a bill that reduces the amount of budget  
11 authority for direct spending provided either under cur-  
12 rent law or proposed to be provided by the bill under con-  
13 sideration, that Member or Senator may state the portion  
14 of such reduction achieved in the first year covered by the  
15 most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget  
16 and in addition the portion of such reduction achieved in  
17 the first ten years covered by the most recently adopted  
18 concurrent resolution on the budget that shall be credited  
19 to the first-year deficit reduction balance and the five-year  
20 deficit reduction balance, as applicable, if the amendment  
21 is agreed to.

22 “(2) Except as provided by paragraph (3), the chair-  
23 man of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Rep-  
24 resentatives or Senate, as applicable, shall, upon the en-  
25 grossment of any bill, other than an appropriation bill, by

1 the House of Representatives or Senate, as applicable,  
2 credit to the applicable entry balances amounts of new  
3 budget authority and outlays equal to the net amounts of  
4 reductions in budget authority and in outlays resulting  
5 from amendments agreed to by that House to that bill.

6 “(3) When computing the net amounts of reductions  
7 in budget authority and in outlays resulting from amend-  
8 ments agreed to by the House of Representatives or Sen-  
9 ate, as applicable, to a bill, the chairman of the Committee  
10 on the Budget of that House shall only count those por-  
11 tions of such amendments agreed to that were so des-  
12 ignated by the Members or Senators offering such amend-  
13 ments as amounts to be credited to the first year deficit  
14 reduction balance and the five-year deficit reduction bal-  
15 ance.

16 “(4) The chairman of the Committee on the Budget  
17 of the House of Representatives and of the Senate shall  
18 each maintain a running tally of the amendments adopted  
19 reflecting increases and decreases of budget authority in  
20 the bill as reported to its House. This tally shall be avail-  
21 able to Members or Senators during consideration of any  
22 bill by that House.

23 “(e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
24 ‘appropriation bill’ means any general or special appro-

1 priation bill, and any bill or joint resolution making sup-  
 2 plemental, deficiency, or continuing appropriations.”.

3 **SEC. 203. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

4       The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the  
 5 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of  
 6 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
 7 section 315 the following new items:

“Sec. 316. Discretionary deficit reduction account.

“Sec. 317. Direct spending deficit reduction account.”.

8                   **TITLE III—GENERAL FUND**  
 9                   **TRANSFERS**

10 **SEC. 301. BUDGET RULE RELATING TO TRANSFERS FROM**  
 11                   **THE GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY TO**  
 12                   **THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND THAT INCREASE**  
 13                   **PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS.**

14       For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of  
 15 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Con-  
 16 trol Act of 1985, the Rules of the House of Representa-  
 17 tives, or the Standing Rules of the Senate, a bill or joint  
 18 resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report  
 19 thereon, or any Act that transfers funds from the general  
 20 fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall  
 21 be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to  
 22 the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year the transfer  
 23 occurs.

1       **TITLE IV—BUDGETING FOR**  
2       **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

3   **SEC. 501. REVIEW OF RULES REQUIRING NEW BUDGET AU-**  
4       **THORITY.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United  
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 559 the  
7 following:

8   **“§ 559a. Review of rules requiring new budget au-**  
9       **thority**

10       “(a) IN GENERAL.—A rule made to carry out a direct  
11 spending program that would require new budget author-  
12 ity of not less than \$100,000,000 for the fiscal year the  
13 rule takes effect or for any of the 9 fiscal years imme-  
14 diately succeeding that fiscal year may not take effect, ex-  
15 cept as provided in subsection (d).

16       “(b) REVIEW BY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND  
17 BUDGET OF PROPOSED RULES.—Before the effective date  
18 of any rule, the Director of the Office of Management and  
19 Budget shall review the rule to determine if the rule is  
20 a rule described in subsection (a). If the Director deter-  
21 mines that the rule is such a rule—

22               “(1) the Director shall notify the agency mak-  
23 ing the rule—

24               “(A) of that determination; and

1           “(B) the amount of the estimated new  
2           budget authority that the rule would require for  
3           the fiscal year in which the rule would take ef-  
4           fect and the 9 fiscal years immediately suc-  
5           ceeding that fiscal year; and

6           “(2) the agency may not undertake any further  
7           action pertaining to such rulemaking.

8           “(c) PERIODIC REVIEW OF RULES.—Beginning on  
9           the date that is one year after the date on which any rule  
10          takes effect, and annually thereafter, the Director of the  
11          Office of Management and Budget may make a determina-  
12          tion as to whether the rule is a rule described in subsection  
13          (a). For purposes of this determination, the fiscal year the  
14          rule takes effect shall be deemed to be the fiscal year in  
15          which the Director makes the determination. If the Direc-  
16          tor determines that the rule is such a rule, the agency  
17          that issued the rule shall provide for a transition period  
18          of such length as the Director, in consultation with the  
19          agency, determines appropriate. At the end of that transi-  
20          tion period, the rule shall cease to have effect.

21          “(d) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
22          vision of this section, a rule described in subsection (a)  
23          shall take effect or continue in effect—

24                 “(1) if the President submits written notice to  
25                 the Congress that the President has determined that

1 the rule should take effect or continue in effect be-  
 2 cause such rule is—

3 “(A) necessary because of an imminent  
 4 threat to health or safety or other emergency;

5 “(B) necessary for the enforcement of  
 6 criminal laws;

7 “(C) necessary for national security; or

8 “(D) issued pursuant to any statute imple-  
 9 menting an international trade agreement; or

10 “(2) when the new budget authority to carry  
 11 out the rule is provided by law.

12 “(e) TREATMENT OF SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR  
 13 RULES.—A rule that does not take effect (or does not con-  
 14 tinue in effect) under this section may not be reissued in  
 15 substantially the same form, and a new rule that is sub-  
 16 stantially the same as such a rule may not be issued, un-  
 17 less the reissued or new rule is specifically authorized by  
 18 a law enacted after the date that the rule fails to take  
 19 effect or fails to continue in effect.

20 “(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any determination under  
 21 this section shall be subject to review under chapter 7 of  
 22 this title.

23 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘new budget author-  
 24 ity’ and ‘direct spending’ have the meanings given such

1 terms under section 250 of the Balanced Budget and  
2 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900).

3 “(h) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply only  
4 to rules for which the rulemakings are commenced after  
5 the date of enactment of the Review Every Dollar Act of  
6 2017.”.

7 (b) COST OF PROJECTED ADMINISTRATIVE REGULA-  
8 TIONS.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code,  
9 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (37)  
11 as paragraph (39); and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
13 paragraph:

14 “(40) a separate statement of the cost of ad-  
15 ministrative rules that are projected to take effect  
16 during the fiscal year for which the budget is sub-  
17 mitted.”.

18 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
19 for chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, is amended  
20 by inserting after the item relating to section 559 the fol-  
21 lowing new item:

“559a. Review of rules requiring new budget authority.”.

