

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5538

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to subject certain direct spending programs to annual appropriations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2020

Mr. BYRNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to subject certain direct spending programs to annual appropriations, 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 “Mandatory Spending
5 Control and Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED FOR DIRECT**
2 **SPENDING PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional
4 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding after section 315 the following:

6 “ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED FOR DIRECT
7 SPENDING PROGRAMS

8 “SEC. 316. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision
9 of law, in fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year there-
10 after—

11 “(1) each direct spending program shall be subject
12 to annual discretionary appropriations; and

13 “(2) no funds may be obligated for any such program
14 using any amounts other than amounts provided in ad-
15 vance in appropriations Acts.

16 “(b) In this section, the term ‘direct spending pro-
17 gram’—

18 “(1) means—

19 “(A) any program with respect to which
20 budget authority is provided (before the date of
21 enactment of this section) by law other than ap-
22 propriation Acts;

23 “(B) any program that is funded (before
24 the date of enactment of this section) through
25 entitlement authority; and

1 “(C) the Supplemental Nutrition Assist-
2 ance Program; and

3 “(2) does not include—

4 “(A) the old-age and survivors insurance
5 program established under title II of the Social
6 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), but not
7 including disability insurance benefits under
8 section 223 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423);

9 “(B) Medicare programs;

10 “(C) all programs administered by the De-
11 partment of Veterans Affairs; and

12 “(D) the TRICARE program (as defined
13 in section 1072 of title 10, United States
14 Code).”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
16 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
17 to section 316 the following new item:

 “Sec. 316. Annual appropriations required for direct spending programs.”.

18 (c) PRESIDENT’S BUDGET SUBMISSION.—Section
19 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by
20 adding at the end the following:

21 “(40) such information as is necessary for the
22 making of accurate appropriations for direct spend-
23 ing programs subject to the appropriations process,
24 and recommendations on legislative changes to bring

1 spending on such programs to a sustainable basis, if
2 applicable.”.

3 (d) RULES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not
4 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
5 Act, the Committee on Rules of the House of Representa-
6 tives shall submit to the House conforming amendments
7 to the Rules of the House of Representatives to effectuate
8 this title, including the requirement that the authority to
9 appropriate funds for direct spending programs subject to
10 the appropriations process is with the Committee on Ap-
11 propriations.

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