

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require an introduced bill or joint resolution to include a statement describing certain information with respect to emergency requirements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require an introduced bill or joint resolution to include a statement describing certain information with respect to emergency requirements.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 [“_____ Act of 2024”].

6 (b) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds
7 the following:

1 (1) Congress often designates certain spending
2 as “emergency”, which means it does not count
3 against budget authority limits. This designation,
4 however, is a “gimmick” that does result in more
5 “outlays” and is specifically designed to increase
6 Federal spending.

7 (2) This practice undermines the original intent
8 of creating a special designation for emergency
9 spending—i.e., to streamline the process for moving
10 these funds quickly through Congress and to the cri-
11 sis at hand.

12 (3) Emergency designations are exempt from
13 fiscal constraints, including requirements to offset
14 spending. Waiving budgetary accountability meas-
15 ures and rules should be rare and used only as a last
16 resort.

17 (4) Circumventing budget spending caps dis-
18 torts our true fiscal condition and reduces the much-
19 needed transparency and accountability that we owe
20 taxpayers.

21 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO STATEMENT DE-**
22 **SCRIBING EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS**
23 **UPON INTRODUCTION.**

24 Section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget and Im-
25 poundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645(d)) is

1 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
2 graph:

3 “(3)(A) A bill or joint resolution may not be intro-
4 duced in the House of Representatives unless the sponsor
5 submits for printing in the Congressional Record a state-
6 ment setting forth any amounts in the bill or joint resolu-
7 tion designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to
8 section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) or section 252(e) of the Balanced
9 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and
10 an explanation of how any such amounts are being used
11 for the purpose of an unanticipated emergency as such
12 terms are defined in sections 250(c)(20) and 250(c)(21)
13 of such Act or a statement that the bill or joint resolution
14 contains no amounts designated as an emergency require-
15 ment.

16 “(B) With respect to each fiscal year, the chair of
17 the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representa-
18 tives shall, on a quarterly basis, cause to be published in
19 the Congressional Record the cumulative amount of all
20 such amounts designated as an emergency requirement as
21 described in subparagraph (A) for such fiscal year.”.