SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title. This section cites the short title of the legislation as the “Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.”

Section 101. Amendments to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. This section amends the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase the defense and non-defense discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. This section provides that the discretionary spending limits in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 will be increased by specified amounts for overseas contingency operations. It also adds a new adjustment to the discretionary spending caps toward expenses in fiscal year 2020 associated with the 2020 Census. In addition, the section revises procedures for implementing sequestration of direct spending, which is required under current law and involves cuts that interact with discretionary spending levels. The section requires that sequestration take place in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, as if the amendments that this section makes to the discretionary spending limits had not been made.

Section 102. Balances on the PAYGO Scorecards. This section resets the balances on the scorecards established by the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO) to zero.

Section 201. Adjustment Authority for Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Resolution in the House of Representatives. This section provides authority to the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to adjust the allocations, aggregates and other budgetary levels submitted under House Resolution 293 to be consistent with the new discretionary limits established in this Act. It also turns off provisions that have been overtaken by this Act.

Section 202. Authority for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Resolution in the House of Representatives. This section provides that, if no budget resolution for fiscal year 2021 has been adopted by April 15, 2020, allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in this section shall apply in the same manner as a budget resolution. No later than May 15, 2020, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives must submit for publication in the Congressional Record committee allocations, aggregate spending levels, and aggregate revenue levels. This section further specifies that the Chairman will set allocations of discretionary funding in accordance with the discretionary spending caps established by the bill and allocations of mandatory funding consistent with the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline. It also
specifies that the Chairman will set the aggregate spending levels in accordance with those allocations and the aggregate revenue levels consistent with the CBO baseline. This section further provides that the Chairman may make adjustments to the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels for certain purposes, including to reflect changes resulting from CBO’s updates to its baseline. This section expires if a fiscal year 2021 budget resolution is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 203. Limitation on Advance Appropriations in the House of Representatives. This section extends a general prohibition on advance appropriations. It also provides for exceptions for programs, activities, or accounts identified in lists submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives for publication in the Congressional Record. This section expires if a fiscal year 2021 budget resolution is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 204. Authority for Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Resolution in the Senate. This section calls for the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate to submit for publication in the Congressional Record committee allocations, aggregate spending levels, aggregate revenue levels, and levels of Social Security revenues and outlays. This section further specifies that the Chairman will set allocations of discretionary funding in accordance with the discretionary spending caps established by the bill and allocations of mandatory funding consistent with the CBO baseline. It also specifies that the Chairman will set the aggregate spending levels in accordance with those allocations and the aggregate revenue and Social Security levels consistent with the CBO baseline. The allocations, aggregates, and levels submitted by the Chairman are enforceable in the Senate as if they were included in a fiscal year 2020 concurrent resolution on the budget. This section updates deficit-neutral reserve funds included in H. Con. Res. 71. This section expires if a fiscal year 2021 budget resolution is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 205. Authority for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Resolution in the Senate. This section provides that, if no budget resolution for fiscal year 2021 has been adopted by April 15, 2020, allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in this section shall apply in the same manner as a budget resolution. No later than May 15, 2020, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate must submit for publication in the Congressional Record committee allocations, aggregate spending levels, aggregate revenue levels, and levels of Social Security revenues and outlays. This section further specifies that the Chairman will set allocations of discretionary funding in accordance with the discretionary spending caps established by the bill and allocations of mandatory funding consistent with the CBO baseline. It also specifies that the Chairman will set the aggregate spending levels in accordance with those allocations and the aggregate revenue levels consistent with the CBO baseline. This section updates deficit-neutral reserve funds included in H. Con. Res. 71. This section expires if a fiscal year 2021 budget resolution is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Section 206. Limitation on Advance Appropriations in the Senate. This section extends a point of order against advance appropriations. It also provides for exceptions for specified accounts as well as programs, activities, or accounts identified in a list submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record. This section expires if a fiscal year 2021 budget resolution is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 207. Point of Order Against Certain Changes in Mandatory Programs in the Senate. This section extends a point of order that limits changes to mandatory programs in Appropriations bills that reduce budget authority but do not reduce outlays. The absolute value of the total such changes for 2021 is limited to $15 billion, the same level permitted for 2020.

Section 208. Point of Order Against Designation of Funds for Overseas Contingency Operations in the Senate. This section includes a point of order on funding designated as overseas contingency operations.

Section 209. Exercise of Rulemaking Powers. This section specifies that sections of this title are enacted under the rulemaking powers of the House of Representatives and the Senate and will be considered part of the rules of each House respectively. It also recognizes that either House has the authority to change their rules.

Section 301. Temporary Extension of Public Debt Limit. This section suspends the public debt limit through July 31, 2021. On August 1, 2021, the limit will be increased by the amount that the face amount of debt obligations exceeds the same amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of enactment of this Act. Adjustments to the debt limit for obligations during the suspension period are limited to obligations necessary to fund a commitment incurred by the federal government that required payment before August 1, 2021.

Section 401. Customs User Fees. This section extends certain customs user fees.

Section 402. Extension of Direct Spending Reductions Through Fiscal Year 2029. This section continues the annual reductions to certain direct spending accounts called for in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 through fiscal year 2029 and makes an adjustment to the cuts required for Medicare.

Section 501. Budgetary Effects. This section exempts the budgetary effects of this Act from the statutory and Senate PAYGO scorecards.