

## S 1651

### Honest Budget Act

**Congress:** 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Economics and Public Finance

**Introduced:** Oct 4, 2011

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget. (Oct 4, 2011)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1651>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** AL • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Oct 4, 2011
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Oct 11, 2011
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Oct 11, 2011
Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]	R · GA		Oct 17, 2011
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Oct 19, 2011
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Oct 19, 2011
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Oct 19, 2011
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Oct 20, 2011
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Oct 31, 2011
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Nov 2, 2011
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Nov 2, 2011
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Nov 8, 2011
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		Nov 8, 2011
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Nov 8, 2011
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Nov 8, 2011
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Nov 8, 2011
Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]	R · TN		Nov 10, 2011
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Nov 10, 2011
Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]	R · NE		Nov 10, 2011
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Nov 15, 2011
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Dec 5, 2011

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Budget Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 4, 2011

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 3581	Related bill	<b>Feb 9, 2012:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget.
112 HR 3844	Related bill	<b>Feb 2, 2012:</b> Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H383, E119-120)
112 HR 3414	Related bill	<b>Nov 14, 2011:</b> Referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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.

Honest Budget Act - Amends procedures in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA) that make it out of order in the Senate to consider appropriations legislation until the Senate agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget. Permits waivers or suspension of such requirements, or successful appeals from a ruling of the Chair, by an affirmative vote of three-fifths (60) of the Senate.

Declares that it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider certain bills, joint resolutions, or conference reports that designate as an emergency requirement any provision that creates discretionary or direct spending or decreases revenues. Requires an affirmative vote of three-fifths (60) of the Senate to successfully appeal from a ruling of the Chair on a point of order against such a measure.

Establishes a procedure for emergency designations by amendment.

Amends the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA) to revise the budgetary treatment of federal direct loans and loan guarantees to account for them on a fair value basis (currently, a FCRA accrual basis).

Expands such new budgetary treatment to financial investments beginning in FY2015. Defines "financial investment" as a federal government investment in any securities (debt or equity) or futures, swaps, or other derivatives, issued by a non-federal entity, regardless of whether the issuances are federally guaranteed, or issued by a federal entity if the issuance consists of marketable securities.

Requires the President's budget: (1) from FY1992 on to reflect the Treasury discounting component of direct loan and loan guarantee programs; and (2) from FY2015 on to reflect the costs of direct loan, loan guarantee, and financial investment programs.

Defines "Treasury discounting component" as the estimated long-term cost to the federal government of a direct loan, loan guarantee, or financial investment calculated on a net present value basis, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

Revises other requirements for the President's budget including conditions for new direct loan obligations incurred and loan guarantee commitments made for FY1992 and thereafter, and new financial investment commitments for FY2015 and thereafter. Requires new budget authority for such loans or loan guarantee or financial investment commitments to be provided in advance in an appropriations Act.

Exempts a direct loan or loan guarantee program that constitutes an entitlement (such as the guaranteed student loan program or the veteran's home loan guaranty program) as well as all existing credit programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) from: (1) the above requirement; and (2) the prohibition against modification of an outstanding direct loan, loan guarantee, or financial investment in a manner that increases its costs unless budget authority for the additional cost has been provided in advance in an appropriations Act.

Revises requirements for Treasury transactions with financing accounts (nonbudget accounts associated with each program account which holds balances, receives the cost payment from the program account, and also includes all other cash flows to and from the federal government resulting from such obligations or commitments made on or after October 1, 1991).

Limits the availability of amounts in liquidating accounts to specified payments resulting from direct loan obligations or

loan guarantee commitments made before October 1, 1991.

Prescribes requirements for consideration of legislation after agreement on a budget resolution (in effect, extending a point of order against certain changes in mandatory programs to all such programs in appropriations bills).

Prohibits the congressional budget committees from counting rescissions of budget authority that do not result in outlay savings over the period covered by a budget resolution when determining the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, and revenues for a fiscal year.

Suspends within-grade step increases in the compensation of certain federal employees from the date of enactment of this Act until December 31, 2012.

Makes it out of order in the Senate to consider any legislation that would provide an advance appropriation, except for employment training, education programs, Head Start, rental assistance, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and veterans' medical services. Allows waiver of this rule by a vote of three-fifths (60) of the Senate.

Prohibits shifts in outlays or revenues from one year to another by a date change to act as an offset for other provisions that increase the deficit for a time period.

Prescribes a budget scoring rule for transfers from the Treasury General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund that increase the level of indebtedness subject to the current applicable statutory public debt limit.

## **Actions Timeline**

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