

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 253

Establishing the Committee to Reduce Government Waste.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

Establishing the Committee to Reduce Government Waste.

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. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There shall be a Senate committee known as the
5 Committee to Reduce Government Waste (referred to in
6 this resolution as the “committee”).

7 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.**

8 (a) COMPOSITION.—The committee shall be com-
9 posed of 12 members as follows:

1 (1) Four members from the Committee on Fi-
 2 nance, 2 selected by the majority leader and 2 se-
 3 lected by the minority leader.

4 (2) Four members from the Committee on Ap-
 5 propriations, 2 selected by the majority leader and
 6 2 selected by the minority leader.

7 (3) Four members from the Committee on the
 8 Budget, 2 selected by the majority leader and 2 se-
 9 lected by the minority leader.

10 (b) TENURE OF OFFICE.—

11 (1) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall
 12 be appointed for a period not to exceed 6 years.

13 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—No person shall continue to
 14 serve as a member of the committee after that per-
 15 son has ceased to be a member of the Committee
 16 from which the member was chosen.

17 (c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the committee shall
 18 not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same man-
 19 ner as the original appointment.

20 (d) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The com-
 21 mittee shall select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from
 22 among its members.

23 (e) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
 24 committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number
 25 of members may hold hearings. The powers conferred

1 upon them under section 4 may be exercised by a majority
2 vote.

3 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The committee shall have the fol-
5 lowing duties:

6 (1) STUDY.—The committee shall—

7 (A) research, review, and study Federal
8 programs that are underperforming or non-
9 essential; and

10 (B) determine which Federal programs
11 should be modified or eliminated.

12 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The committee shall
13 develop recommendations to the Senate for actions
14 designed to modify or eliminate underperforming or
15 nonessential Federal programs.

16 (3) REPORTS AND LEGISLATION.—The com-
17 mittee shall submit to the Senate—

18 (A) at least once a year, reports includ-
19 ing—

20 (i) a detailed statement of the find-
21 ings and conclusions of the committee; and

22 (ii) a list of underperforming or non-
23 essential Federal programs; and

24 (B) such legislation and administrative ac-
25 tions as the committee considers appropriate.

1 (b) CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.—Any legisla-
2 tion submitted to the Senate by the committee shall be
3 considered under the provisions of section 310 of the Con-
4 gressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641).

5 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

6 (a) HEARINGS.—The committee or, at its direction,
7 any subcommittee or member of the committee, may, for
8 the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 3—

9 (1) sit and act, at any time, during the ses-
10 sions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Congress;

11 (2) require as the committee considers nec-
12 essary, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of
13 witnesses and the production of books, papers, and
14 documents;

15 (3) administer oaths and take testimony; and

16 (4) procure necessary printing and binding.

17 (b) WITNESS ALLOWANCES AND FEES.—The provi-
18 sions of section 1821 of title 28, United States Code, shall
19 apply to witnesses requested to appear at any hearing of
20 the committee. The per diem and mileage allowances for
21 witnesses shall be paid from funds available to pay the
22 expenses of the committee.

23 (c) EXPENDITURES.—The committee, or any sub-
24 committee thereof, is authorized to make such expendi-
25 tures as it deems advisable.

1 **SEC. 5. APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF.**

2 Except as otherwise provided by law, the committee
3 shall have the power to appoint and fix the compensation
4 of the Chief of Staff of the committee and such experts
5 and clerical, stenographic, and other assistants as the
6 committee deems advisable.

7 **SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.**

8 The expenses of the committee shall be paid from the
9 contingent fund of the Senate.

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