

cludes off-budget programs in the congressional and executive budgets, and streamlines the congressional budget process by providing for an annual budget resolution and by removing unnecessary obstacles to the consideration of authorization and appropriation bills.

Section 201. Congressional Budget

(a) Definitions

(1) Deficit.—The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as “current law”) does not include a definition of the term “deficit”.

The House amendment contained a definition of the term “deficit”.

The Senate amendment contained a definition of the term “deficit”.

The conference agreement contains a definition of the term “deficit” which is similar to that found in both amendments. “Deficit” is defined as the amount by which outlays exceed revenues for a fiscal year. The definition includes all off-budget Federal entities.

The definition also includes, for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Reduction Act of 1985, receipts and disbursements of the Social Security trust funds.

The conferees are aware that this requirement conflicts with the mathematical consistency requirement for budget resolutions contained in the Congressional Budget Act and the House rules. The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act prohibits the budget resolution from setting forth social security spending and revenues. The mathematical consistency rule requires that the budget resolution therefore show a deficit which is computed without social security. The conferees intend that budget resolutions which are considered during the operation of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act will contain two deficit computations: one will exclude social security so as to comply with the mathematical consistency rule. The other will include social security and will be the deficit level used for purposes of determining compliance with the maximum deficit amount under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act.

(2) Maximum Deficit Amount.—Current law does not contain a definition of “maximum deficit amount”.

The House amendment contained a definition of “maximum deficit amount”.

The Senate amendment contained a definition of “maximum deficit amount”.

The conference agreement defines “maximum deficit amount” to mean \$171.9 billion in fiscal year 1986, \$144 billion in fiscal year 1987, \$108 billion in fiscal year 1988, \$72 billion in fiscal year 1989, \$36 billion in fiscal year 1990, and zero in fiscal year 1991.

(3) Off-budget Federal entity.—Current law does not contain a definition of “off-budget Federal entity”.

The House amendment did not define “off-budget Federal entity”.

The Senate amendment did not define “off-budget Federal entity”.

The conference agreement defines "off-budget Federal entity" as any entity (other than a privately-owned Government-sponsored entity) which is established by Federal law, and the budget receipts and disbursements of which would, but for this Act, be required to be excluded from the President's budget and the congressional budget. (See also discussion of "Off-Budget Federal Entities").

(4) *Entitlement authority*.—Current law does not contain an explicit definition of "entitlement authority".

The House amendment contained a definition of "entitlement authority".

The Senate amendment did not contain a definition of "entitlement authority".

The conference agreement contains the House provision defining "entitlement authority" so as to specifically reference spending authority as described in section 401(c)(2)(C) of the Budget Act, which is the working definition under current interpretation.

(5) *Credit Authority*.—Current law does not contain a definition of "credit authority".

The House amendment defined "credit authority" as authority to incur direct loan obligations or primary loan guarantee commitments.

The Senate amendment contained an identical provision.

The conference agreement incorporates this language.

(6) *Budget Authority to include Offsetting Receipts*.—Current law does not define "budget authority" as including the authority to collect offsetting receipts.

The House amendment defined "budget authority" to include the authority to collect offsetting receipts.

The Senate amendment did not include such a provision.

The conference agreement contains the House provision clarifying the definition of budget authority by specifically including the authority to collect offsetting receipts. Offsetting receipts are amount deposited in receipt accounts. These amounts generally are deducted from budget authority by function and by agency. This provision would not change that scorekeeping practice. A reduction in offsetting receipts increases budget authority. Under the new definition, legislation that decreases offsetting receipts will be treated as legislation providing budget authority. The new definition does not affect the treatment of offsetting collections credited to an account, such as TVA power proceeds.

(b) *Congressional Budget Process*

The House amendment contained a complete substitute for Title III of the Congressional Budget Act.

The Senate amendment contained a series of amendments to that title.

The conference agreement contains a complete substitute for Title III, as follows:

Section 300. Timetable

This section displays the main steps in the congressional budget process by setting forth ten major dates for completion of budget related action.