

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1591

To require zero-based budgeting for departments and agencies of the
Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2015

Mr. ROSS (for himself and Mr. JOLLY) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To require zero-based budgeting for departments and
agencies of the Government.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Zero-based Budgeting
5 Ensures Responsible Oversight (ZERO) Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. ZERO-BASED BUDGETING.**

7 Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 section:

1 “(i)(1) The President shall submit with materials re-
2 lated to each budget transmitted under subsection (a) on
3 or after January 1, 2017, a budget for each department
4 and agency which contains the following information:

5 “(A) A description of each activity for which
6 the department or agency receives an appropriation
7 in the current fiscal year or for which the depart-
8 ment or agency requests an appropriation for the
9 budget year.

10 “(B) The legal basis for each activity.

11 “(C) For each activity, three alternative fund-
12 ing levels for the budget year, and a summary of the
13 priorities that would be accomplished within each
14 level, and the additional increments of value that
15 would be added by the higher funding levels. At least
16 two of these funding levels shall be below the fund-
17 ing level for the current fiscal year.

18 “(D) For each activity, one or more measures
19 of its cost efficiency and effectiveness.

20 “(2) As soon as practicable, the Director of the Office
21 of Management and Budget shall publish guidelines to
22 carry out this subsection. The guidelines shall require that
23 the baseline budget of each department or agency is as-

- 1 sumed to be zero and each proposed expenditure shall be
- 2 justified as if it were a new expenditure.”.

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