

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3951

To provide authority and discretion to the President over budgetary resources
to achieve a balanced budget.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To provide authority and discretion to the President over
budgetary resources to achieve a balanced budget.

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 “Balanced Budget Re-
5 sponsibility Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT**
7 **OVER BUDGETARY RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE**
8 **A BALANCED BUDGET.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

10 (1) the term “budgetary resources”—

1 (A) has the meaning given that term in
2 section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and
3 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2
4 U.S.C. 900(c)); and

5 (B) includes any discretionary appropria-
6 tions or direct spending, as defined in such sec-
7 tion, available for the applicable fiscal year;

8 (2) the term “covered budgetary resources”
9 means any budgetary resources, except for budg-
10 etary resources to carry out—

11 (A) the Medicare program under title
12 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1395 et seq.); or

14 (B) the old-age, survivors, and disability
15 insurance program established under title II of
16 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.);
17 and

18 (3) the term “deficit” has the meaning given
19 that term under section 3 of the Congressional
20 Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2
21 U.S.C. 622).

22 (b) BUDGETARY DISCRETION.—Notwithstanding the
23 Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.),
24 if the President determines, in consultation with the Sec-
25 retary of the Treasury and the Office of Management and

1 Budget, that there will be a deficit for a fiscal year, the
2 President may exercise budgetary discretion and decline
3 to obligate covered budgetary resources available for that
4 fiscal year, as the President determines appropriate, in an
5 amount that is not more than the amount required to
6 eliminate the deficit.

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