

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3958

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require certain additional calculations to be included in the annual financial statement submitted under section 331(e) of that title, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2007

Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KIRK, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Ms. FOXX, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. PAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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

A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require certain additional calculations to be included in the annual financial statement submitted under section 331(e) of that title, and for other purposes.

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 “Truth in Accounting
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREPARATION OF NET PRESENT VALUE CALCULA-**
7 **TION OF MAJOR FISCAL EXPOSURES OF THE**
8 **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 331(e) of title 31, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(3) NET PRESENT VALUE CALCULATION AND
13 OTHER CALCULATIONS.—

14 “(A) MATTERS COVERED.—The financial
15 statement shall include a calculation under poli-
16 cies in effect during the fiscal year covered by
17 the statement of the net present value of the
18 overall fiscal exposures of the United States
19 Government. The calculation shall include—

20 “(i) the outstanding debt held by the
21 public;

22 “(ii) calculations of the net present
23 value of commitments and receipts of the
24 Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
25 (OASI) Trust Fund, the Federal Disability

1 Insurance (DI) Trust Fund, the Federal
2 Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund, and
3 the Federal Supplementary Medical Insur-
4 ance (SMI) Trust Fund using the most re-
5 cent available long-term, intermediate pro-
6 jections by the Trustees of such Trust
7 Funds of revenues, expenditures, and dis-
8 count factors, as represented in such an-
9 nual reports;

10 “(iii) calculations of the net present
11 value of commitments and receipts of the
12 Railroad Retirement and Black Lung (part
13 C) programs;

14 “(iv) calculations of the net present
15 value of commitments and receipts of the
16 Federal retirement and health insurance
17 systems, both civil and military.

18 “(B) TIME HORIZON.—(i) For each cal-
19 culation under subparagraph (A), calculations
20 shall be provided for—

21 “(I) a 75-year horizon; and

22 “(II) an indefinite time horizon.

23 “(ii) For the 75-year horizon under clause
24 (i)(I), each calculation shall take each year’s
25 projected expenditures minus revenues, divide

1 this difference by the projected discount factor
2 for that year, and add the resulting 75 annual
3 discounted flows to obtain the program's net
4 present value imbalance. The long-term dis-
5 count and growth rates used in these calcula-
6 tions shall be discussed in the financial state-
7 ment and shall be consistent with those used by
8 the Department of Treasury and other Govern-
9 ment agencies with regard to other long-term fi-
10 nancial calculations. For purposes of the cal-
11 culations in clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of sub-
12 paragraph (A), revenues shall include payroll
13 taxes as allocated by law to the respective Trust
14 Funds (currently the case for OASI, DI, and
15 HI), participant premiums and State transfer
16 income (for SMI), general revenue receipts from
17 the taxation of benefits, as currently allocated
18 by law to the OASI, DI, and HI Trust Funds,
19 and funding for the Federal retirement and
20 health insurance systems, both civil and mili-
21 tary. For purposes of this calculation, revenues
22 shall not include interest income on Trust Fund
23 and transfers of general revenue to SMI, Social
24 Security, or Medicare.

1 “(iii) For the indefinite time horizon under
2 clause (i)(II), the calculations shall follow the
3 procedures provided in clause (ii), but shall be
4 based on extended projections for a number of
5 years sufficiently beyond 75 years that would
6 result in the present value sum increasing by
7 less than 0.05 percent if an additional year
8 were added to the projection.

9 “(C) GENERATIONAL IMBALANCE CAL-
10 CULATION.—The financial statement shall in-
11 clude a program-by-program calculation under
12 policies in effect during the fiscal year covered
13 by the statement of the net present value of
14 benefits and projected benefits to current par-
15 ticipants of the programs described in clauses
16 (ii), (iii), and (iv) of subparagraph (A), includ-
17 ing the present value of projected benefits to
18 current participants, less the present value of
19 projected contributions and earmarked taxes
20 paid by, or on behalf of, current participants
21 less the current trust fund balances.

22 “(D) FISCAL IMBALANCE CALCULATION.—
23 The financial statement shall include a pro-
24 gram-by-program calculation under policies in
25 effect during the fiscal year covered by the

1 statement of the net present value of benefits
2 and projected benefits to current and future
3 participants of the programs described in
4 clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of subparagraph (A),
5 including the present value of projected benefits
6 to current and future participants over the in-
7 definite horizon, less the present value of pro-
8 jected contributions and earmarked taxes paid
9 by, or on behalf of, current and future partici-
10 pants over the indefinite horizon, less the cur-
11 rent trust fund balances.

12 “(E) PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC DEBT.—

13 The financial statement shall include the total
14 amount of outstanding public debt (included in
15 the statement pursuant to subparagraph
16 (A)(i)), plus the total amount of fiscal imbal-
17 ance calculations (included in the statement
18 pursuant to subparagraph (D)), set forth sepa-
19 rately by amount of debt per person, per
20 fulltime worker, and per household.

21 “(F) METHODS USED.—The financial

22 statement shall include the assumptions and de-
23 tails of the methods used in making the calcula-
24 tions required under subparagraph (A). It shall
25 separately identify and provide a detailed de-

1 description of the methods and assumptions used
2 in making projections of tax revenues, pre-
3 miums, other receipts from all sources, includ-
4 ing inter-fund transfers and interest income on
5 securities held in trust funds, benefit outlays
6 distinguished by the type of benefit, and admin-
7 istrative expenses. The financial statement shall
8 also provide details regarding demographic as-
9 sumptions (such as fertility, mortality, immigra-
10 tion, and labor-force participation rates), de-
11 pendency ratios, and economic assumptions
12 (such as trust fund interest rates, discount
13 rates, revenue and benefit growth rates, health-
14 care expenditure growth rates, productivity
15 growth rates, and inflation rates). The informa-
16 tion should include a description of all other in-
17 termediate steps and variables used and pro-
18 jected in making the calculations.”.

19 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR PRESIDENT TO USE FINAN-
20 CIAL STATEMENT IN PREPARING BUDGET.—

21 (1) REQUIREMENT.—In preparing the budget
22 for the United States Government for submission
23 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,
24 the President shall take into consideration the finan-
25 cial statement prepared by the Secretary of the

1 Treasury under section 331(e) of such title, includ-
2 ing the effect of the overall budget on the
3 generational imbalance calculation and the fiscal im-
4 balance calculation required under subparagraphs
5 (C) and (D), respectively, of such section, and the
6 effect of the overall budget on the net present value
7 of the overall fiscal exposures of the United States
8 Government.

9 (2) INCLUSION OF STATEMENT IN BUDGET.—
10 Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is
11 amended by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(36) A statement describing how the financial
14 statement prepared by the Secretary of the Treasury
15 under section 331(e) of this title was considered in
16 preparing the budget, as required by section 2(b) of
17 the Truth in Accounting Act of 2007, including a
18 statement of the effect of the overall budget on the
19 generational imbalance calculation and the fiscal im-
20 balance calculation required under subparagraphs
21 (C) and (D), respectively, of such section, and the
22 effect of the overall budget on the net present value
23 of the overall fiscal exposures of the United States
24 Government.”.

1 (c) SECRETARY OF TREASURY TESTIMONY ON FI-
2 NANCIAL STATEMENT.—Section 331(e) of title 31, United
3 States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(4) The Secretary of the Treasury shall testify each
6 year before Congress on the financial statement for the
7 preceding fiscal year required by this section, including the
8 generational imbalance calculation and fiscal imbalance
9 calculation required under subparagraphs (C) and (D), re-
10 spectively, of paragraph (3).”.

11 (d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL
12 CONDITION OF GOVERNMENT.—Section 331(e) of title 31,
13 United States Code, is further amended by adding at the
14 end the following new paragraph:

15 “(5) The Comptroller General shall testify each year
16 before Congress upon request. Not later than January 30
17 of each year, the Comptroller General of the United States
18 shall submit to Congress a report containing an assess-
19 ment of the financial condition of the United States Gov-
20 ernment. The report shall include—

21 “(A) an assessment of the generational imbal-
22 ance calculation and fiscal imbalance calculation re-
23 quired under paragraph (3);

1 “(B) a statement of whether the President met
2 the requirements of section 2(b) of the Truth in Ac-
3 counting Act of 2007;

4 “(C) the results of the most recent long-term
5 fiscal model simulation of the Government Account-
6 ability Office; and

7 “(D) such other fiscal matters the Comptroller
8 General determines to be significant.”.

9 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The information required
10 under paragraph (3) of section 331(e) of title 31, United
11 States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be included
12 in the first financial statement required under that section
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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