

## SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 681. Disclaimer**

Nothing contained in this Act, or in any amendments made by this Act, shall be construed as—

- (1) asserting or conceding the constitutional powers or limitations of either the Congress or the President;
- (2) ratifying or approving any impoundment heretofore or hereafter executed or approved by the President or any other Federal officer or employee, except insofar as pursuant to statutory authorization then in effect;
- (3) affecting in any way the claims or defenses of any party to litigation concerning any impoundment; or
- (4) superseding any provision of law which requires the obligation of budget authority or the making of outlays thereunder.

(Pub. L. 93-344, title X, §1001, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 332.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in provision preceding par. (1), means Pub. L. 93-344, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 297, as amended, known as the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, which enacted chapters 17, 17A, and 17B, and section 190a-3 of this title and sections 11a, 11c, 11d, 1020a of former Title 31, amended sections 11, 665, 701, 1020, 1151, 1152, 1153, and 1154 of former Title 31, section 105 of Title 1, General Provisions, sections 190b and 190d of this title, repealed sections 571 and 581c-1 of former Title 31 and sections 66 and 81 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 190a-1, 621, 632, and 682 of this title, section 105 of Title 1, and section 1020 of former Title 31. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 621 of this title and Tables.

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1400 of Title 31 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97-258, §1, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 12, 1974, see section 905(a) of Pub. L. 93-344, formerly set out as a note under section 621 of this title.

## SHORT TITLE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-130, §1, Apr. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 1200, which provided that Pub. L. 104-130 (enacting former subchapter III (§691 et seq.) of this chapter and provisions set out as a note under section 691 of this title and amending provisions set out as notes under section 621 of this title) could be cited as the “Line Item Veto Act”, was omitted pursuant to section 5 of Pub. L. 104-130, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates note under section 691 of this title.

## SHORT TITLE

For short title of title X of Pub. L. 93-344, which enacted this chapter, as the “Impoundment Control Act of 1974”, see section 1(a) of Pub. L. 93-344, as amended, set out as a note under section 621 of this title.

## SUBCHAPTER II—CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESCISSIONS, RESERVATIONS, AND DEFERRALS OF BUDGET AUTHORITY

**§ 682. Definitions**

For purposes of sections 682 to 688 of this title—

(1) “deferral of budget authority” includes—

(A) withholding or delaying the obligation or expenditure of budget authority (whether by establishing reserves or otherwise) provided for projects or activities; or

(B) any other type of Executive action or inaction which effectively precludes the obligation or expenditure of budget authority, including authority to obligate by contract in advance of appropriations as specifically authorized by law;

(2) “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller General of the United States;

(3) “rescission bill” means a bill or joint resolution which only rescinds, in whole or in part, budget authority proposed to be rescinded in a special message transmitted by the President under section 683 of this title, and upon which the Congress completes action before the end of the first period of 45 calendar days of continuous session of the Congress after the date on which the President’s message is received by the Congress;

(4) “impoundment resolution” means a resolution of the House of Representatives or the Senate which only expresses its disapproval of a proposed deferral of budget authority set forth in a special message transmitted by the President under section 684 of this title; and

(5) continuity of a session of the Congress shall be considered as broken only by an adjournment of the Congress sine die, and the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain shall be excluded in the computation of the 45-day period referred to in paragraph (3) of this section and in section 683 of this title, and the 25-day periods referred to in sections 687 and 688(b)(1) of this title. If a special message is transmitted under section 683 of this title during any Congress and the last session of such Congress adjourns sine die before the expiration of 45 calendar days of continuous session (or a special message is so transmitted after the last session of the Congress adjourns sine die), the message shall be deemed to have been retransmitted on the first day of the succeeding Congress and the 45-day period referred to in paragraph (3) of this section and in section 683 of this title (with respect to such message) shall commence on the day after such first day.

(Pub. L. 93-344, title X, §1011, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 333.)

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1401 of Title 31 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97-258, §1, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

**§ 683. Rescission of budget authority****(a) Transmittal of special message**

Whenever the President determines that all or part of any budget authority will not be required to carry out the full objectives or scope of programs for which it is provided or that such budget authority should be rescinded for fiscal policy or other reasons (including the termination of authorized projects or activities for

which budget authority has been provided), or whenever all or part of budget authority provided for only one fiscal year is to be reserved from obligation for such fiscal year, the President shall transmit to both Houses of Congress a special message specifying—

(1) the amount of budget authority which he proposes to be rescinded or which is to be so reserved;

(2) any account, department, or establishment of the Government to which such budget authority is available for obligation, and the specific project or governmental functions involved;

(3) the reasons why the budget authority should be rescinded or is to be so reserved;

(4) to the maximum extent practicable, the estimated fiscal, economic, and budgetary effect of the proposed rescission or of the reservation; and

(5) all facts, circumstances, and considerations relating to or bearing upon the proposed rescission or the reservation and the decision to effect the proposed rescission or the reservation, and to the maximum extent practicable, the estimated effect of the proposed rescission or the reservation upon the objects, purposes, and programs for which the budget authority is provided.

**(b) Requirement to make available for obligation**

Any amount of budget authority proposed to be rescinded or that is to be reserved as set forth in such special message shall be made available for obligation unless, within the prescribed 45-day period, the Congress has completed action on a rescission bill rescinding all or part of the amount proposed to be rescinded or that is to be reserved. Funds made available for obligation under this procedure may not be proposed for rescission again.

(Pub. L. 93-344, title X, §1012, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 333; Pub. L. 100-119, title II, §207, Sept. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 786.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1402 of Title 31 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97-258, §1, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

AMENDMENTS

1987—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-119 inserted at end “Funds made available for obligation under this procedure may not be proposed for rescission again.”

**§ 684. Proposed deferrals of budget authority**

**(a) Transmittal of special message**

Whenever the President, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of any department or agency of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States proposes to defer any budget authority provided for a specific purpose or project, the President shall transmit to the House of Representatives and the Senate a special message specifying—

(1) the amount of the budget authority proposed to be deferred;

(2) any account, department, or establishment of the Government to which such budget authority is available for obligation, and the

specific projects or governmental functions involved;

(3) the period of time during which the budget authority is proposed to be deferred;

(4) the reasons for the proposed deferral, including any legal authority invoked to justify the proposed deferral;

(5) to the maximum extent practicable, the estimated fiscal, economic, and budgetary effect of the proposed deferral; and

(6) all facts, circumstances, and considerations relating to or bearing upon the proposed deferral and the decision to effect the proposed deferral, including an analysis of such facts, circumstances, and considerations in terms of their application to any legal authority, including specific elements of legal authority, invoked to justify such proposed deferral, and to the maximum extent practicable, the estimated effect of the proposed deferral upon the objects, purposes, and programs for which the budget authority is provided.

A special message may include one or more proposed deferrals of budget authority. A deferral may not be proposed for any period of time extending beyond the end of the fiscal year in which the special message proposing the deferral is transmitted to the House and the Senate.

**(b) Consistency with legislative policy**

Deferrals shall be permissible only—

(1) to provide for contingencies;

(2) to achieve savings made possible by or through changes in requirements or greater efficiency of operations; or

(3) as specifically provided by law.

No officer or employee of the United States may defer any budget authority for any other purpose.

**(c) Exception**

The provisions of this section do not apply to any budget authority proposed to be rescinded or that is to be reserved as set forth in a special message required to be transmitted under section 683 of this title.

(Pub. L. 93-344, title X, §1013, July 12, 1974, 88 Stat. 334; Pub. L. 100-119, title II, §206(a), Sept. 29, 1987, 101 Stat. 785.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1403 of Title 31 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97-258, §1, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

AMENDMENTS

1987—Pub. L. 100-119 amended section generally, substituting substantially similar provisions in subsecs. (a) and (c) and substituting subsec. (b) for former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Any amount of budget authority proposed to be deferred, as set forth in a special message transmitted under subsection (a) of this section, shall be made available for obligation if either House of Congress passes an impoundment resolution disapproving such proposed deferral.”

**§ 685. Transmission of messages; publication**

**(a) Delivery to House and Senate**

Each special message transmitted under section 683 or 684 of this title shall be transmitted