



FY06 BUDGET RESOLUTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Budget Enforcement

Passing a budget is not enough, Congress must also enforce it...

In 2004 and 2005, the Senate used 78 points of order to defeat legislation that would have bust the budget by \$1.7 trillion.

THE FY06 BUDGET RESOLUTION:

Sets three years of discretionary spending caps...

The budget sets caps in 2006 for budget authority at \$843.4 billion and outlays at \$946.9 billion. The budget sets caps on budget authority at \$868 billion in 2007 and \$891 billion in 2008. During the appropriations process, a bill that would push total discretionary spending beyond the cap amount would be subject to a 60-vote point of order.

Creates a new tool to check long-term spending...

The budget establishes a new 60-vote point of order against legislation that would cost more than \$5 billion in any of the four 10-year periods between 2015 and 2055.

Strengthens enforcement against unfunded mandates...

Under current budget law, a simple majority point of order lies against legislation that creates unfunded mandates on states if there is no cost estimate or if the bill costs more than \$66 million beginning in the year enacted or any of the following four years. The budget strengthens these rules by requiring 60 votes to waive the point of order.

Maintains other enforcement...

The budget extends through 2010 other existing enforcement, including a 60-vote point of order against legislation exceeding committee allocations (302(a)s), a \$23.4 billion cap on advance appropriations, limits on the use of "emergency" designation to avoid budget rules, and a 60-vote point of order against Appropriations subcommittee bills that exceed the subcommittee's allocations (302(b)s).

Maintains existing Pay-as-you-go provision...

The budget leaves unchanged the Pay-as-you-go rule in the 2004 Budget Resolution, the last budget agreed to by the full Congress.