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100TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4149

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that certain Federal budget information be shown in graphic form on the first page of the instructions for Federal individual income tax returns.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 1988

Mr. DIOGUARDI (for himself, Mr. DONALD E. LUKENS, Mr. SWINDALL, Mr. PORTER, Mr. DORNAN of California, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. HERGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that certain Federal budget information be shown in graphic form on the first page of the instructions for Federal individual income tax returns.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Truth in Government Spending Act".

SEC. 2. GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN BUDGET INFORMATION.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to miscellaneous provisions) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"SEC. 7520. GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN BUDGET INFORMATION.

"(a) GENERAL RULE.—On the first page of any booklet of instructions prepared by the Secretary for filing individual income tax returns for taxable years beginning in any calendar year, the Secretary shall include a graph which—

"(1) shall be in the form required by subsection (b), and

"(2) shall include the information required by subsection (c).

"(b) FORM OF GRAPH.—The graph required under subsection (a) shall be in the following form:

"U.S. TAXPAYER CREDIT CARD STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR ____

Description	Charges	Payments
Previous Balance*	$________	
Purchases:		
Social Security & Medicare	________	
Defense	________	
Welfare & Income Security	________	
Agricultural Subsidies	________	
Foreign Aid	________	
Criminal Justice	________	
Other	________	

"U.S. TAXPAYER CREDIT CARD STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR ____
Continued—

Description	Charges	Payments
Payments received:		
Individual income taxes (Thank you for your prompt payment)		$______
Social security related taxes and contributions		______
Other		______
Totals	$______	$______
Finance Charge	$______	

NEW BALANCE* $______

Previous Balance	Purchases	Finance Charge	Payments	Balance Due
$____	$______	$______	$______	$______

*These figures are arrived at using lenient Federal Government accounting standards. The true figure may be larger.

"(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SHOWN.—

"(1) FISCAL YEAR.—The fiscal year referred to in the graph shall be the fiscal year ending in the calendar year referred to in subsection (a).

"(2) PREVIOUS BALANCE.—The two blank spaces relating to previous balance shall be filled in with the amount per individual taxpayer of the publicly held national debt as of the beginning of the fiscal year referred to in paragraph (1).

"(3) PURCHASE AND PAYMENTS INFORMATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The blank spaces relating to purchases and payments received shall be filled in with the respective amounts per individual taxpayer of the specified categories of purchases or payments referred to in the table.

"(B) REORDERING BASED ON SIZE.—If, for the fiscal year involved, the order of the purchases (when ordered on basis of amount beginning with the largest) is different than the order set forth in subsection (b), the purchases shall be set forth in such new order.

"(4) FINANCE CHARGE.—The blank spaces relating to finance charge shall be filled in with the amount per individual taxpayer of the interest on the publicly held national debt for the fiscal year referred to in paragraph (1).

"(5) TOTALS, ETC.—The other blank spaces shall be filled in on the basis of the amounts determined under the foregoing paragraphs of this subsection.

"(6) INFORMATION TO BE USED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the specified categories of purchases and payments received and the amount of the finance charge shall be based on the most recent summary of receipts by source, and outlays by function, of the United States Government published by the Department of the Treasury and available as of the completion of the preparation of the instructions referred to in subsection (a).

"(B) OTHER DETERMINATIONS.—All other determinations under this subsection shall be based on the most recent data available as of the completion of the preparation of the instructions referred to in subsection (a).

"(C) CLARIFICATION OF TERMS.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(i) the Welfare & Income Security category shall be based on the Income Security category of the summary referred to in subparagraph (A),

"(ii) the Agricultural Subsidies category shall be based on the Agriculture category of such summary,

"(iii) the Criminal Justice category shall be based on the Administration of Justice category of such summary, and

"(iv) the Foreign Aid category shall be based on the International Affairs category of such summary."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 77 of such Code is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new item:

"Sec. 7520. Graphic presentation of certain budget information."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to instructions prepared for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1987.

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