

# Calendar No. 424

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 4632

To provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

JUNE 1, 2026

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

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## A BILL

To provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Prevent Government  
3 Shutdowns Act of 2026”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 13 of title  
6 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 **“§ 1311. Automatic continuing appropriations**

9 “(a) For purposes of this section—

10 “(1) the term ‘lapse in appropriations’ means a  
11 time period during which—

12 “(A) the applicable full-year appropriation  
13 Act for a program, project, or activity has not  
14 been enacted for the current fiscal year;

15 “(B) the program, project, or activity was  
16 provided funding in the preceding applicable ap-  
17 propriation Act; and

18 “(C) no continuing appropriation Act is in  
19 effect for such program, project, or activity;  
20 and

21 “(2) the term ‘preceding applicable appropria-  
22 tion Act’ means—

23 “(A) the most recent continuing appropria-  
24 tion Act enacted; or

25 “(B) if no continuing appropriation Act  
26 has been enacted for the current fiscal year, the

1           most recent applicable full-year appropriation  
2           Act (including a full-year continuing appropria-  
3           tion Act) enacted for the immediately preceding  
4           fiscal year (excluding any supplemental appro-  
5           priation Act).

6           “(b)(1) On and after the first day of each fiscal year,  
7 if a lapse in appropriations occurs with respect to a pro-  
8 gram, project, or activity, there are appropriated such  
9 sums as may be necessary, at the rate for operations as  
10 provided in the preceding applicable appropriation Acts,  
11 under the authorities and conditions provided in such  
12 Acts, for continuing programs, projects, or activities (in-  
13 cluding the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that  
14 were conducted under such Acts and for which appropria-  
15 tions, funds, or other authorities were made available in  
16 such Acts.

17           “(2)(A) Appropriations and funds made available and  
18 authority granted under paragraph (1) shall be available  
19 for a period of 14 calendar days.

20           “(B) If, at the end of the first 14 calendar-day period  
21 during which appropriations and funds are made available  
22 and authority is granted under paragraph (1), and the end  
23 of every 14 calendar-day period thereafter, a lapse in ap-  
24 propriations with respect to a program, project, or activity  
25 continues, the appropriations and funds made available

1 and authority granted under paragraph (1) with respect  
2 to the program, project, or activity shall be extended for  
3 an additional 14 calendar-day period.

4 “(3) For entitlements and other mandatory payments  
5 whose budget authority was provided for in preceding ap-  
6 plicable appropriation Acts or under this section, and for  
7 activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, ap-  
8 propriations and funds made available for a fiscal year  
9 under paragraph (1) shall be at the rate necessary to  
10 maintain program levels under current law, and under the  
11 authority and conditions provided in the preceding appli-  
12 cable appropriation Act.

13 “(c) Appropriations and funds made available, and  
14 authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this sec-  
15 tion for a program, project, or activity shall be available,  
16 in accordance with subsection (b), for the period—

17 “(1) beginning on the first day of any lapse in  
18 appropriations during such fiscal year; and

19 “(2) ending on the date of enactment of an ap-  
20 propriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to  
21 the account for such program, project, or activity  
22 (whether or not such Act provides appropriations for  
23 such program, project, or activity) or a continuing  
24 appropriation Act providing funding for the pro-  
25 gram, project, or activity, as applicable.

1       “(d) Expenditures made for a program, project, or  
2 activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall  
3 be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or au-  
4 thorization whenever an appropriation Act for such fiscal  
5 year with respect to the account for a program, project,  
6 or activity or a law making continuing appropriations until  
7 the end of such fiscal year for such program, project, or  
8 activity is enacted.

9       “(e) Appropriations and funds made available by, or  
10 authority granted pursuant to, this section may be used  
11 without regard to the time limitations for submission and  
12 approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of  
13 this title, but nothing in this section shall be construed  
14 to waive any other provision of law governing the appor-  
15 tionment of funds.

16       “(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sec-  
17 tion, except for subsection (e), for those programs that  
18 would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or  
19 complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning  
20 of the applicable fiscal year because of distributions of  
21 funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others,  
22 such high initial rates of operation or complete distribu-  
23 tion shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded  
24 for such programs funded by this section that would im-  
25 pinge on final funding prerogatives.

1       “(g) This section shall be implemented so that only  
2 the most limited funding action of that permitted shall be  
3 taken in order to provide for continuation of programs,  
4 projects, and activities.

5       “(h) This section shall not apply to a program,  
6 project, or activity for any period during a fiscal year, if  
7 any other provision of law (other than an authorization  
8 of appropriations or an appropriation Act for a prior fiscal  
9 year making carryover funds available)—

10           “(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds  
11 available, or grants authority for such program,  
12 project, or activity to continue for such period; or

13           “(2) specifically provides that no appropriation  
14 shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or  
15 no authority shall be granted for such program,  
16 project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

17       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18 for chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended  
19 by inserting after the item relating to section 1310 the  
20 following:

“1311. Automatic continuing appropriations.”.

21 **SEC. 3. TIMELY ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATION ACTS.**

22       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

23           (1) the term “covered officer or employee”  
24 means—

1 (A) an officer or employee of the Office of  
2 Management and Budget;

3 (B) a Member of Congress; or

4 (C) an employee of the personal office of a  
5 Member of Congress, a committee of either  
6 House of Congress, or a joint committee of  
7 Congress;

8 (2) the term “covered period”—

9 (A) means any period of automatic con-  
10 tinuing appropriations; and

11 (B) with respect to the legislative branch—

12 (i) does not include any period of  
13 automatic continuing appropriations that  
14 occurs during the period—

15 (I) beginning at the time at  
16 which general appropriation Acts pro-  
17 viding funding for the entire Federal  
18 Government (including a continuing  
19 appropriation Act) have been enacted  
20 or passed in identical form by both  
21 Houses and transmitted to Secretary  
22 of the Senate or Clerk of the House  
23 for enrollment and presentment to the  
24 President for his signature; and

1 (II) ending at the time at which  
2 1 or more general appropriation  
3 Acts—

4 (aa) are vetoed by the Presi-  
5 dent; or

6 (bb) do not become law  
7 without the President’s signature  
8 under article I, section 7 of the  
9 Constitution of the United States  
10 based on an adjournment of the  
11 Congress; and

12 (ii) includes any period of automatic  
13 continuing appropriations that is not a pe-  
14 riod described in clause (i) and that follows  
15 a veto or a failure to become law (as de-  
16 scribed in item (bb) of clause (i)(II)) of 1  
17 or more general appropriation Acts;

18 (3) the term “Member of Congress” has the  
19 meaning given that term in section 2106 of title 5,  
20 United States Code;

21 (4) the term “National Capital Region” has the  
22 meaning given that term in section 8702 of title 40,  
23 United States Code; and

24 (5) the term “period of automatic continuing  
25 appropriations” means a period during which auto-

1        matic continuing appropriations under section 1311  
2        of title 31, United States Code, as added by section  
3        2 of this Act, are in effect with respect to 1 or more  
4        programs, projects, or activities.

5        (b) LIMITS ON TRAVEL EXPENDITURES.—

6            (1) LIMITS ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL.—

7            (A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in  
8            subparagraph (B), no amounts may be obli-  
9            gated or expended for official travel by a cov-  
10          ered officer or employee during a covered pe-  
11          riod.

12          (B) EXCEPTIONS.—

13            (i) RETURN TO DC.—If a covered offi-  
14            cer or employee is away from the seat of  
15            Government on the date on which a cov-  
16            ered period begins, funds may be obligated  
17            and expended for official travel for a single  
18            return trip to the seat of Government by  
19            the covered officer or employee.

20            (ii) TRAVEL IN NATIONAL CAPITAL  
21            REGION.—During a covered period,  
22            amounts may be obligated and expended  
23            for official travel by a covered officer or  
24            employee from one location in the National

1 Capital Region to another location in the  
2 National Capital Region.

3 (iii) NATIONAL SECURITY EVENTS.—

4 During a covered period, if a national se-  
5 curity event that triggers a continuity of  
6 operations or continuity of Government  
7 protocol occurs, amounts may be obligated  
8 and expended for official travel by a cov-  
9 ered officer or employee for any official  
10 travel relating to responding to the na-  
11 tional security event or implementing the  
12 continuity of operations or continuity of  
13 Government protocol.

14 (2) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN  
15 FUNDS.—Section 313 of the Federal Election Cam-  
16 paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended—

17 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “for  
18 ordinary” and inserting “except as provided in  
19 subsection (d), for ordinary”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(d) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS  
22 FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL DURING AUTOMATIC CONTINUING  
23 APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
25 graph (2), during a covered period (as defined in

1 section 3 of the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act  
2 of 2026), a contribution or donation described in  
3 subsection (a) may not be obligated or expended for  
4 travel in connection with duties of the individual as  
5 a holder of Federal office.

6 “(2) RETURN TO DC.—If the individual is away  
7 from the seat of Government on the date on which  
8 a covered period (as so defined) begins, a contribu-  
9 tion or donation described in subsection (a) may be  
10 obligated and expended for travel by the individual  
11 to return to the seat of Government.”.

12 (c) PROCEDURES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—During a covered period, in  
15 the Senate and the House of Representatives—

16 (A) it shall not be in order to move to pro-  
17 ceed to any matter except for—

18 (i) a measure making appropriations  
19 for the fiscal year during which the covered  
20 period begins;

21 (ii) any motion required to determine  
22 the presence of or produce a quorum;

23 (iii) a bill or resolution addressing the  
24 statutory limit on the public debt under

1 section 3101 of title 31, United States  
2 Code; or

3 (iv) on and after the 30th calendar  
4 day after the first day of a covered pe-  
5 riod—

6 (I) the nomination of an indi-  
7 vidual—

8 (aa) to a position at level I  
9 of the Executive Schedule under  
10 section 5312 of title 5, United  
11 States Code; or

12 (bb) to serve as Chief Jus-  
13 tice of the United States or an  
14 Associate Justice of the Supreme  
15 Court of the United States; or

16 (II) a measure extending the pe-  
17 riod during which a program, project,  
18 or activity is authorized to be carried  
19 out (without substantive change to the  
20 program, project, or activity or any  
21 other program, project, or activity)  
22 if—

23 (aa) an appropriation Act  
24 with respect to the program,  
25 project, or activity for the fiscal

1 year during which the covered pe-  
2 riod occurs has not been enacted;  
3 and

4 (bb) the program, project, or  
5 activity has expired since the be-  
6 ginning of such fiscal year or will  
7 expire during the 30-day period  
8 beginning on the date of the mo-  
9 tion;

10 (B) it shall not be in order to move to re-  
11 cess or adjourn for a period of more than 23  
12 hours; and

13 (C) at noon each day, or immediately fol-  
14 lowing any constructive convening of the Senate  
15 under rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Standing  
16 Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall  
17 direct the clerk to determine whether a quorum  
18 is present.

19 (2) WAIVER.—

20 (A) LIMITATION ON PERIOD.—It shall not  
21 be in order in the Senate or the House of Rep-  
22 resentatives to move to waive any provision of  
23 paragraph (1) for a period that is longer than  
24 7 days.

1 (B) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE.—A provision  
2 of paragraph (1) may only be waived or sus-  
3 pended upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds  
4 of the Members of the applicable House of Con-  
5 gress, duly chosen and sworn.

6 **SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

7 (a) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—  
8 The budgetary effects of this Act and the amendments  
9 made by this Act shall be estimated as if this Act and  
10 the amendments made by this Act are discretionary appro-  
11 priation Acts for purposes of section 251 of the Balanced  
12 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2  
13 U.S.C. 901).

14 (b) BASELINE.—For purposes of calculating the  
15 baseline under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and  
16 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907),  
17 the provision of budgetary resources under section 1311  
18 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act, for  
19 an account shall be considered to be a continuing appro-  
20 priation in effect for such account for less than the entire  
21 current year.

22 (c) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING  
23 LIMITS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of enforcing  
25 the discretionary spending limits under section

1       251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Def-  
2       icit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)), the  
3       budgetary resources made available under section  
4       1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by  
5       this Act, shall be considered part-year appropria-  
6       tions for purposes of section 251(a)(4) of the Bal-  
7       anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of  
8       1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(4)).

9               (2) APPLICATION.—If a report under section  
10       254(f) of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control  
11       Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(f)) is required during a  
12       lapse in appropriations, the due date of such report  
13       shall be the later of—

14                       (A) the date specified in section 251(a)(1)  
15                       of such Act (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(1)); or

16                       (B) the date that is 30 calendar days after  
17                       the first day of the lapse in appropriations.

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**A BILL**

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