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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To require zero-based budgeting for departments and agencies of the Government.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To require zero-based budgeting for departments and agencies of the Government.

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 “Zero-based Budgeting  
5 Ensures Responsible Oversight (ZERO) Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. ZERO-BASED BUDGETING.**

7 Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is  
8 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
9 section:

1           “(i)(1) The President shall submit with materials re-  
2 lated to each budget transmitted under subsection (a) on  
3 or after January 1, 2017, a budget for each department  
4 and agency which contains the following information:

5           “(A) A description of each activity for which  
6 the department or agency receives an appropriation  
7 in the current fiscal year or for which the depart-  
8 ment or agency requests an appropriation for the  
9 budget year.

10           “(B) The legal basis for each activity.

11           “(C) For each activity, three alternative fund-  
12 ing levels for the budget year, and a summary of the  
13 priorities that would be accomplished within each  
14 level, and the additional increments of value that  
15 would be added by the higher funding levels. At least  
16 two of these funding levels shall be below the fund-  
17 ing level for the current fiscal year.

18           “(D) For each activity, one or more measures  
19 of its cost efficiency and effectiveness.

20           “(2) As soon as practicable, the Director of the Office  
21 of Management and Budget shall publish guidelines to  
22 carry out this subsection. The guidelines shall require that  
23 the baseline budget of each department or agency is as-  
24 sumed to be zero and each proposed expenditure shall be  
25 justified as if it were a new expenditure.”.