

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 380

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 1945

Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments

AN ACT

To establish a national policy and program for assuring continuing full employment and full production in a free competitive economy, through the concerted efforts of industry, agriculture, labor, State and local governments, and the Federal Government.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SHORT TITLE**

4 **SECTION 1.** This Act may be cited as the "Full Em-
5 ployment Act of 1945".

6 **FREE ENTERPRISE AND FULL EMPLOYMENT**

7 **SEC. 2. (a)** It is the responsibility of the Federal Gov-

1 ernment to foster free competitive private enterprise and the
2 investment of private capital.

3 (b) All Americans able to work and seeking work are
4 entitled to an opportunity for useful, remunerative, regular,
5 and full-time employment, including self-employment in agri-
6 culture, commerce, industry or the professions.

7 (c) In order to assure the free exercise of the oppor-
8 tunity for employment set forth above and in order to (1)
9 foster free competitive private enterprise and the investment
10 of private capital; (2) promote the general health and
11 welfare of the Nation; (3) foster the American home and
12 American education as the foundation of the American way
13 of life; (4) raise the standard of living of the American
14 people; (5) provide adequate employment opportunities for
15 returning veterans; (6) develop trade and commerce among
16 the several States and with foreign nations; (7) maintain
17 expanding markets for agricultural products and assure
18 expanding income for agricultural enterprises; (8) contribute
19 to the economic development of underdeveloped areas of the
20 country; (9) encourage and strengthen competitive small
21 business enterprises; (10) strengthen the national defense
22 and security; and (11) contribute to the establishment and
23 maintenance of lasting peace among nations, the Federal
24 Government has the responsibility, with the assistance and
25 concerted efforts of industry, agriculture, and labor and

1 State and local governments and consistent with the needs
2 and obligations of the Federal Government and other essen-
3 tial considerations of national policy, to assure continuing full
4 employment, that is, the existence at all times of sufficient
5 employment opportunities for all Americans able to work
6 and seeking work.

7 (d) To that end the Federal Government shall, in coop-
8 eration with industry, agriculture, labor, State and local
9 governments, and others, develop and pursue a consistent and
10 carefully planned economic program with respect to, but not
11 limited to, taxation; banking, credit, and currency; monopoly
12 and monopolistic practices; wages, hours, and working con-
13 ditions; foreign trade and investment; agriculture; education;
14 housing; social security; natural resources; the provision of
15 public services, works, and research; and other revenue, in-
16 vestment, expenditure, service, or regulatory activities of
17 the Federal Government. Such program shall, among other
18 things—

19 (1) stimulate, encourage, and assist private enter-
20 prises to provide, through an expanding production and
21 distribution of goods and services, the largest feasible
22 volume of employment opportunities;

23 (2) stimulate, encourage, and assist State and local
24 governments, through the exercise of their respective

1 functions, to make their most effective contribution to
2 assuring continuing full employment;

3 (3) provide for an income for the aged sufficient
4 to enable them to maintain a decent and healthful
5 standard of living, and promote the retirement from
6 the labor force of the older citizens; and

7 (4) to the extent that continuing full employment
8 cannot otherwise be attained, provide, consistent with
9 the needs and obligations of the Federal Government
10 and other essential considerations of national policy,
11 such volume of Federal investment and expenditure as
12 may be needed, in addition to the investment and ex-
13 penditure by private enterprises, consumers, and State
14 and local governments, to achieve the objective of con-
15 tinuing full employment. Federal investment and
16 expenditure, whether direct or indirect, or whether for
17 public works, for public services, for assistance to busi-
18 ness, agriculture, home owners, veterans, or consumers,
19 or for other purposes, shall be designed to contribute
20 to the national wealth and well-being and to stimulate
21 increased employment opportunities by private enter-
22 prises. Any such Federal investment and expenditure
23 calling for the construction of public works by the Fed-
24 eral Government shall provide for the performance of
25 the necessary construction work by private enterprises

1 under contract, except where the performance of such
2 work by some other method is necessary by reason of
3 special circumstances or is authorized by other provisions
4 of law; and all such work shall be performed in accord-
5 ance with all applicable laws, including laws relating
6 to labor standards: *Provided*, That any program of
7 Federal investment and expenditure for the fiscal year
8 1948 or any subsequent fiscal year when the nation is
9 at peace shall be accompanied by a program of taxation
10 over a period comprising the year in question and a
11 reasonable number of years thereafter designed and
12 calculated to prevent during that period any net in-
13 crease in the national debt (other than debt incurred
14 for self-liquidating projects and other reimbursable
15 expenditures), without interfering with the goal of full
16 employment.

17 (e) It is the policy of the United States to discharge
18 the responsibilities herein set forth in such a manner as will
19 contribute to an expanding exchange of goods and services
20 among nations and without resort to measures or programs
21 that would contribute to economic warfare among nations.

22 THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT BUDGET

23 SEC. 3. (a) The President shall transmit to Congress
24 at the beginning of each regular session the National Pro-

1 duction and Employment Budget (hereinafter referred to
2 as the "National Budget"), which shall set forth—

3 (1) for the ensuing fiscal year and such longer
4 period as the President may deem appropriate, an esti-
5 mate of the number of employment opportunities needed
6 for full employment, the production of goods and services
7 at full employment, and the volume of investment and
8 expenditure needed for the purchase of such goods and
9 services;

10 (2) current and foreseeable trends in the number
11 of employment opportunities, the production of goods
12 and services, and the volume of investment and expendi-
13 ture for the purchase of goods and services, not taking
14 into account the effects of the general program provided
15 for in paragraph (3) hereof; and

16 (3) a general program, pursuant to section 2, for
17 assuring continuing full employment, together with such
18 recommendations for legislation as he may deem neces-
19 sary or desirable. Such program shall include whatever
20 measures he may deem necessary to prevent inflationary
21 or deflationary dislocations or monopolistic practices
22 from interfering with the assurance of continuing full
23 employment.

24 (b) The National Budget shall include a review of
25 the economic program of the Federal Government during the

1 preceding year and a report on its effect upon the amount
2 of the national income and upon the distribution of the
3 national income among agriculture, industry, labor, and
4 others.

5 (c) The President shall transmit quarterly to Congress
6 a report on economic developments, together with such modi-
7 fications in the National Budget and such legislative recom-
8 mendations as he may deem necessary or desirable.

9 (d) When the National Budget and the quarterly re-
10 ports thereon are transmitted to the Congress, they shall
11 be referred to the Joint Committee on the National Budget
12 hereinafter established.

13 PREPARATION OF NATIONAL BUDGET

14 SEC. 4. (a) The National Budget shall be prepared
15 under the general direction and supervision of the President,
16 and in consultation with heads of departments and estab-
17 lishments.

18 (b) The President shall consult with industry, agricul-
19 ture, labor, consumers, State and local governments, and
20 others, with regard to the preparation of the National
21 Budget, and for this purpose shall establish such advisory
22 boards, committees, or commissions as he may deem desirable.

23 JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET

24 SEC. 5. (a) There is hereby established a Joint Com-
25 mittee on the National Budget, to be composed of fifteen

1 Members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of
2 the Senate; and fifteen Members of the House of Representa-
3 tives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Repre-
4 sentatives. The party representation of the Joint Committee
5 shall as nearly as may be feasible reflect the relative mem-
6 bership of the majority and minority parties in the Senate
7 and the House of Representatives.

8 (b) It shall be the function of the Joint Committee—

9 (1) to make a continuing study of matters relating
10 to the National Budget and to consult with the President
11 with respect thereto;

12 (2) to make a study of the National Budget trans-
13 mitted to Congress by the President in accordance with
14 section 3 of this Act; and

15 (3) as a guide to the several committees of Con-
16 gress dealing with legislation relating to the National
17 Budget, not later than April 1 of each year to file
18 a report with the Senate and the House of Representa-
19 tives containing its findings and recommendations with
20 respect to each of the main recommendations made by
21 the President in the National Budget.

22 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Joint Com-
23 mittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members
24 to execute the functions of the committee, and shall be filled
25 in the same manner as in the case of the original selection.

1 The committee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman
2 from among its members.

3 (d) The Joint Committee, or any duly authorized sub-
4 committee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such places
5 and times, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance
6 of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers,
7 and documents, to administer such oaths, to take such testi-
8 mony, to procure such printing and binding, and to make
9 such expenditures as it deems advisable. The cost of steno-
10 graphic services to report such hearings shall not be in excess
11 of 25 cents per hundred words. The provisions of sections
12 102 to 104, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes shall apply in
13 case of any failure of any witness to comply with any sub-
14 pena, or to testify when summoned, under authority of this
15 section.

16 (e) The Joint Committee is empowered to appoint and
17 fix the compensation of such experts, consultants, technicians,
18 and clerical and stenographic assistants as it deems neces-
19 sary and advisable, but the compensation so fixed shall not
20 exceed the compensation prescribed under the Classification
21 Act of 1923, as amended, for comparable duties. The com-
22 mittee is authorized to utilize the services, information,
23 facilities, and personnel of the departments and establish-
24 ments.

25 (f) The expenses of the Joint Committee shall be paid

1 one-half from the contingent fund of the Senate and one-half
2 from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives
3 upon vouchers signed by the chairman or vice chairman.

4 INTERPRETATION

5 SEC. 6. Nothing contained herein shall be construed
6 as directing or authorizing—

7 (a) the operation of plants, factories, or other pro-
8 ductive facilities by the Federal Government;

9 (b) the use of compulsory measures of any type
10 whatsoever in determining the allocation or distribution
11 of manpower;

12 (c) any change in the existing procedures on
13 appropriations; or

14 (d) the carrying out of, or any appropriation for,
15 any program set forth in the National Budget, unless
16 such program shall have been authorized by provisions
17 of law other than this Act.

Passed the Senate September 28 (legislative day, Sep-
tember 10), 1945.

Attest:

LESLIE L. BIFFLE,

Secretary.

79TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 380

AN ACT

To establish a national policy and program for assuring continuing full employment and full production in a free competitive economy, through the concerted efforts of industry, agriculture, labor, State and local governments, and the Federal Government.

October 1, 1945

Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the
Executive Departments