

## The Budget Control Act of 2011 Timeline

Below is a list of key dates under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) for action by Congress relating to the Super Committee:

**By August 16, 2011** – Congressional leaders must appoint the 12 members of the Super Committee.

**By September 16, 2011** – The Super Committee must hold its first public meeting by this date.

**September 30, 2011-December 31, 2011** – During this period, the House and Senate each must vote on a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This legislation will almost certainly fail to garner support of 2/3 of the Senate mandated for passage of amendments to the Constitution and will likely also fail in the House.

**October 1, 2011** – Unless the appropriations process is completed by this date, Congress will be forced to enact a continuing resolution funding the Federal government's operations in order to prevent a government shutdown. A major question still to be determined is whether such a continuing resolution will be of relatively brief duration to allow the appropriations process to be completed or whether the CR will become a de facto omnibus appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2012 that substitutes for the normal appropriations process.

**By October 14, 2011** – Congressional Committees may report deficit reduction recommendations to the Super Committee for its consideration. Please note that Committees are not required to provide any recommendations.

**By November 23, 2011** – The Super Committee must produce detailed legislation that would achieve at least \$1.5 in additional deficit reduction over the period of Fiscal Years 2012 to 2021.

**By December 2, 2011** – The Super Committee's report, legislative language and CBO score must be transmitted to the Administration and Congress.

**By December 9, 2011** – All Congressional Committees to whom the Super Committee's legislation is referred must report the legislation to the full House and Senate with no amendment.

**By December 23, 2011** – The House and Senate must vote on the Super Committee's legislation, which cannot be amended on the Floor of either Chamber. A simple majority vote will be required in both the House and Senate to pass this legislation; 60 votes in the Senate will not be required.

**October 1, 2012** – If a bill does not become law by January 15, 2012, that reduces the deficit by an additional \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must make cuts to defense and non-defense programs sufficient to produce \$1.2 trillion in savings over ten years. If no additional deficit reduction becomes law, these automatic cuts of \$1.2 trillion over ten years would represent a cut of approximately 8.0 percent from projected spending levels. Social Security payments, Medicare premiums, copayments and certain low income programs are exempt from these across-the-board cuts. The cuts to Medicare can only come from provider payments and are capped at 2 percent of the annual cost of the Medicare program. Military pay is also likely to be exempted from any automatic cuts to defense programs. The size of these exemptions means that there will have to be substantially larger cuts to remaining programs than 8.0 percent to achieve the required \$1.2 trillion in savings.

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