Key Reconciliation Terminology

Reconciliation Bill

Legislation that amends an existing law to bring direct spending, revenue, and debt levels in alignment with current fiscal policy

Reconciliation Process

Process for passing reconciliation bill, which curtails normal Senate proceedings by limiting debate and requiring a simple majority for bill passage, thus eliminating filibuster

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016.

Budget Committee Directives Guide Reconciliation Process

Reconciliation Process in Brief

1 Origination of Reconciliation Directives

Budget Committees include reconciliation directives in annual budget resolution specifying:

- Which committees should develop reconciliation legislation
- Net dollar amount of change
- Time period to implement

2 Creation of Reconciliation Bill

Related committees prepare reconciliation bill in accordance with reconciliation directives

3 Consideration of Reconciliation Bill

Modified bill debate and approval process

Example of Reconciliation Directives

Health Care Reconciliation Directives in Fiscal Year 2010 Resolution*

SEC. 201. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(b) ...The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

SEC. 202. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE.

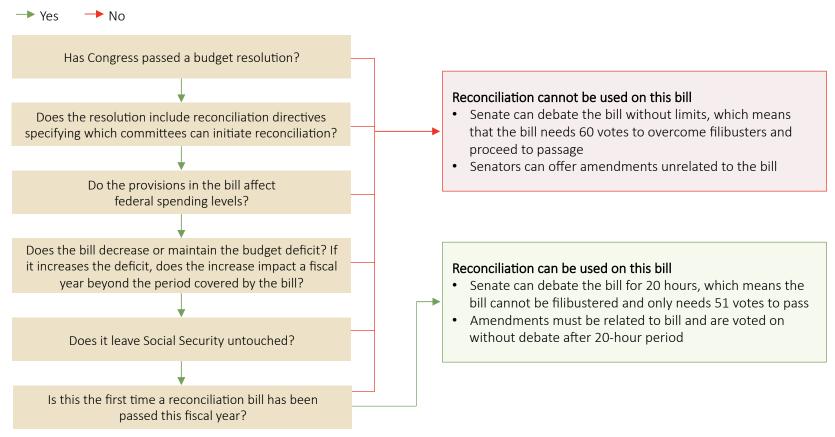
- (a) Health Care Reform-
- (1) The House Committee on Energy and Commerce shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.
- (2) The House Committee on Ways and Means shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.
- (3) The House Committee on Education and Labor shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

*Abbreviation of an actual document

Sources: The Library of Congress, Committee Reports: House Report 111-089, Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

For Reconciliation to be Used on a Bill, Certain Criteria Must be Met

Conditions For and Outcomes of Congressional Reconciliation Process in Senate



Sources: National Journal Research, 2016.

Budget Committee Majority Determines Guidelines

Senate Budget Committee



Chairman: Mike Enzi (R-WY)



Ranking Member: Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Republican Members

Charles Grassley (IA) Jeff Sessions (AL) Mike Crapo (ID) Lindsey Graham (SC) Rob Portman (OH) Pat Toomey (PA) Ron Johnson (WI)

Kelly Ayotte (NH)

Bob Corker (TN)

Roger Wicker (MS)

David Perdue (GA)

Democratic Members

Patty Murray (WA) Ron Wyden (OR) Debbie Stabenow (MI) Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) Mark Warner (VA) Jeff Merkley (OR) Tammy Baldwin (WI) Tim Kaine (VA) Angus King (ME)

Majority controls budget committee priorities in each branch

House Budget Committee



Chairman: Tom Price (R-GA)



Ranking Member: Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Republican Members

Todd Rokita (IN) Scott Garrett (NJ) Mario Diaz-Balart (FL) Tom Cole (OK) Tom McClintock (CA) Diane Black (TN) Rob Woodall (GA) Marsha Blackburn (TN) Vicky Hartzler (MO) Tom Rice (SC) Marlin Stutzman (IN) Mark Sanford (SC) Steve Womack (AR) Dave Brat (VA) Rod Blum (IA) Alex Mooney (WV) Glenn Grothman (WI) Gary Palmer (AL) John Moolenaar (MI)

Bruce Westerman (AR) Vern Buchanan (FL)

Democratic Members

John Yarmuth (KY)
Bill Pascrell (NJ)
Tim Ryan (OH)
Gwen Moore (WI)
Kathy Castor (FL)
Jim McDermott (WA)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Marc Pocan (WI)
Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM)
Debbie Dingell (MI)
Ted Lieu (CA)
Donald Norcross (NJ)
Seth Moulton (MA)

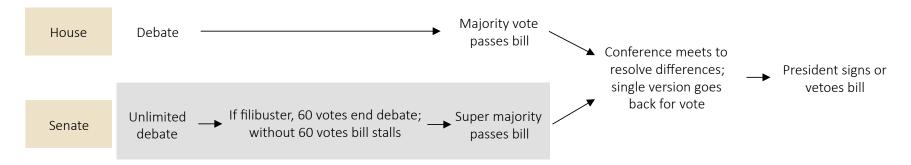
Sources: Senate Budget Committee, 2016; House Committee on the Budget, 2016.

Consideration Process Curtails Debate and Voids Filibuster

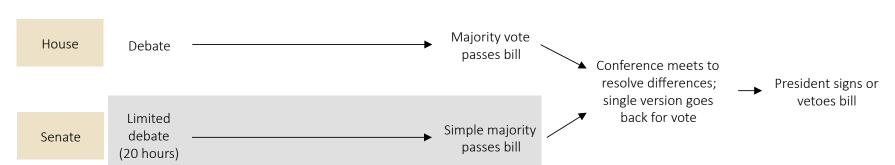
Standard Legislative Process and Reconciliation Process

Standard Legislative Process

Key Point of Differentiation



Reconciliation Process



Sources: Bill Heniff Jr., "Budget Reconciliation Legislation: Development and Consideration," Congressional Research Service, November 29, 2010.

Reconciliation Regularly Used as a Matter of Course

Record of the Reconciliation Process in the Past

Reconciliation Act	Senate	House	President
Revenue Adjustment Act of 1975	D	D	R (vetoed)
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980	D	D	. D
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981	R	D	: R
Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982	R	D	: R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1982	R	D	: R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1983	R	D	: R
Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1985	R	D	: R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1986	R	D	R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987	D	D	R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1989	D	D	R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990	D	D	R
Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993	D	D	D
Balanced Budget Act of 1995	R	R	D (vetoed)
Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity	R	R	D
Reconciliation Act of 1996			
Balanced Budget Act of 1997	R	R	: D
Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997	R	R	: D
Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999	R	R	D (vetoed)
Marriage Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2000	R	R	D (vetoed)
Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001	D	R	: R
Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003	R	R	R
Deficit Reduction Act of 2005	R	R	R
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005	R	R	R
College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007	. D	D	R
Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010	D	D	D
			:

Number of Reconciliation Bills
Per Party in Control of Senate
(1974-Present)

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Sources: Bill Heniff Jr. and Justin Murray, "Congressional Budget Resolutions: Historical Information," Congressional Research Service, March 13, 2012.