SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 3005 OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

This Act would provide additional authority to implement Section 3005 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-171, 120 Stat. 4, 23-24 (2006). Section 3005 directs the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to implement and administer a program through which eligible U.S. households may obtain a maximum of two coupons of $40 each to be applied towards the purchase of a digital-to-analog converter box.

Section 1 would provide the Assistant Secretary with additional authority to spend funds for administrative expenses notwithstanding existing limits on such expenses in the current law. The first subsection would make it clear that the Assistant Secretary may spend $7 million from balances in certain programs created by the Act to cover the administrative expenses of the Converter Box Program. The second subsection would permit the Assistant Secretary to spend additional funds as necessary to administer the Converter Box Program from the identified programs upon approval by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and a 15-day notice to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The section would also clarify that total outlays for the Converter Box Program cannot exceed $1.5 billion.

Section 2 would provide the effective date of this Act to be the date of the legislation's enactment.