

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3575

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to establish joint resolutions on the budget, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2011

Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. STUTZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to establish joint resolutions on the budget, and for other purposes.

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 “Legally Binding Budg-
5 et Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 3 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
3 is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(4) The term ‘joint resolution on the budget’
6 means—

7 “(A) a joint resolution setting forth the
8 budget for the United States Government for a
9 fiscal year as provided in section 301; and

10 “(B) any other joint resolution revising the
11 budget for the United States Government for a
12 fiscal year as described in section 304.”.

13 **SEC. 3. REVISION OF TIMETABLE.**

14 Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
15 (2 U.S.C. 631) is amended to read as follows:

16 “TIMETABLE

17 “SEC. 300. (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by
18 subsection (b), the timetable with respect to the congres-
19 sional budget process for any Congress (beginning with
20 the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress or a subsequent
21 Congress, as applicable) is as follows:

“On or before:

First Monday in February

February 15

Not later than 6 weeks after
budget submission.

April 1

April 15

Action to be completed:

President submits budget recommendations.

Congressional Budget Office submits report
to Budget Committees.

Committees submit views and estimates to
Budget Committees.

Budget Committees report joint resolution on
the budget.

Congress completes action on joint resolution
on the budget.

May 15	Appropriation bills may be considered in the House of Representatives.
June 10	House Appropriations Committee reports last appropriation bill.
June 30	House completes action on appropriation bills.
October 1	Fiscal year begins.

1 “(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of any first session
2 of Congress that begins in any year during which the term
3 of a President (except a President who succeeds himself)
4 begins, the following dates shall supersede those set forth
5 in subsection (a):

“On or before:	Action to be completed:
First Monday in April	President submits budget recommendations.
April 20	Committees submit views and estimates to Budget Committees.
May 15	Budget Committees report joint resolution on the budget.
June 1	Congress completes action on joint resolution on the budget.
June 1	Appropriation bills may be considered in the House of Representatives.
July 1	House Appropriations Committee reports last appropriation bill.
July 20	House completes action on appropriation bills.
October 1	Fiscal year begins.”.

6 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 303 AND CONFORMING**
7 **AMENDMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Congressional
9 Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

10 (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”, by strik-
11 ing “has been agreed to” and inserting “takes ef-
12 fect”, and by striking subsections (b) and (c); and

13 (2) by striking its section heading and inserting
14 the following new section heading: “CONSIDERATION

1 OF BUDGET-RELATED LEGISLATION BEFORE BUDG-
2 ET BECOMES LAW”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating
4 to section 303 in the table of contents set forth in section
5 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Con-
6 trol Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 303. Consideration of budget-related legislation before budget becomes
law.”.

7 **SEC. 5. PERMISSIBLE REVISIONS OF BUDGET RESOLU-**
8 **TIONS.**

9 Section 304 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 “PERMISSIBLE REVISIONS OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

12 “SEC. 304. At any time after the joint resolution on
13 the budget for a fiscal year has been enacted pursuant
14 to section 301, and before the end of such fiscal year, the
15 two Houses and the President may enact a joint resolution
16 on the budget which revises or reaffirms the joint resolu-
17 tion on the budget for such fiscal year most recently en-
18 acted, and for purposes of the enforcement of the Congres-
19 sional Budget Act of 1974, the chairman of the Budget
20 Committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate,
21 as applicable, may adjust levels as needed for the enforce-
22 ment of the budget resolution.”.

1 **SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON THE CONTENT OF BUDGET RESO-**
2 **LUTIONS.**

3 Section 305 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
4 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(e) **LIMITATION ON CONTENTS.**—(1) It shall not be
7 in order in the House of Representatives or in the Senate
8 to consider any joint resolution on the budget or any
9 amendment thereto or conference report thereon that con-
10 tains any matter referred to in paragraph (2).

11 “(2) Any joint resolution on the budget or any
12 amendment thereto or conference report thereon that con-
13 tains any matter not permitted in section 301(a) or (b)
14 shall not be treated in the House of Representatives or
15 the Senate as a budget resolution under subsection (a) or
16 (b) or as a conference report on a budget resolution under
17 subsection (c) of this section.”.

18 **SEC. 7. DEEMING OF BUDGETARY AGGREGATES, ALLOCA-**
19 **TIONS, AND RECONCILIATION INSTRUCTIONS**
20 **IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE UPON VETO OF**
21 **JOINT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title III of the Congressional
23 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding after section
24 315 the following new section:

1 “AUTOMATIC STANDING ORDER UPON VETO OF JOINT
2 RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

3 “SEC. 316. If the President vetoes a joint resolution
4 on the budget, the aggregates, allocations, and any other
5 matters that pertain solely to the Congress set forth in
6 that joint resolution shall, for all purposes of titles III and
7 IV, be deemed to operate and be enforceable in the House
8 of Representatives and the Senate as if the joint resolution
9 had been enacted.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
11 tents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget
12 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by in-
13 serting after the item relating to section 315 the following
14 new item:

“Sec. 316. Automatic standing order upon veto of joint resolution on the budg-
et.”.

15 **SEC. 8. PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.**

16 Section 301(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of
17 1974 is amended by striking “and” at the end of para-
18 graph (8), by striking the period and inserting “; and”
19 at the end of paragraph (9), and by inserting after para-
20 graph (9) the following new paragraph:

21 “(10) set forth the public debt limit.”.

1 **SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRES-**
2 **SIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 TO EFFEC-**
3 **TUATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDG-**
4 **ET.**

5 (a) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRES-
6 SIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF
7 1974.—(1)(A) Sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 308,
8 310, 311, 312, 314, 405, and 904 of the Congressional
9 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) are amended
10 by striking “concurrent” each place it appears and insert-
11 ing “joint”.

12 (B)(i) Sections 302(d), 302(g), 308(a)(1)(A), and
13 310(d)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are
14 amended by striking “most recently agreed to concurrent
15 resolution on the budget” each place it occurs and insert-
16 ing “most recently enacted joint resolution on the budg-
17 et”.

18 (ii) The section heading of section 301 of such Act
19 is amended by striking “ANNUAL ADOPTION OF CONCUR-
20 RENT RESOLUTION” and inserting “JOINT RESOLUTIONS”;
21 and

22 (C) Sections 302, 303, 304, 310, and 311 of the Con-
23 gressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by striking
24 “agreed to” each place it appears and by inserting “en-
25 acted”.

1 (2) The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of
2 the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act
3 of 1974 is amended—

4 (A) in the item relating to section 301, by strik-
5 ing “Annual adoption of concurrent resolution” and
6 inserting “Joint resolutions”; and

7 (B) by striking “concurrent” and inserting
8 “joint” in the item relating to section 305.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 310
10 REGARDING RECONCILIATION DIRECTIVES.—(1) The side
11 heading of section 310(a) of the Congressional Budget Act
12 of 1974 is amended by inserting “JOINT EXPLANATORY
13 STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING CONFERENCE REPORT ON”
14 before “JOINT”.

15 (2) Section 310(a) of the Congressional Budget Act
16 of 1974 is amended by striking “A” and inserting “The
17 joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference
18 report on a”.

19 (3) The first sentence of section 310(b) of the Con-
20 gressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking “If”
21 and inserting “If the joint explanatory statement accom-
22 panying the conference report on”.

23 (4) Section 310(c)(1) of the Congressional Budget
24 Act of 1974 is amended by inserting “the joint explana-

1 tory statement accompanying the conference report on”
2 after “pursuant to”.

3 **SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF**
4 **REPRESENTATIVES TO EFFECTUATE JOINT**
5 **BUDGET RESOLUTIONS.**

6 Clauses 1(d)(1), 4(a)(4), 4(b)(2), 4(f)(1)(A), and
7 4(f)(2) of rule X, clause 10 of rule XVIII, clause 10 of
8 rule XX, and clauses 7 and 10 of rule XXI of the Rules
9 of the House of Representatives are amended by striking
10 “concurrent” each place it appears and inserting “joint”.

11 **SEC. 11. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED**
12 **BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL**
13 **ACT OF 1985.**

14 Section 258C(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and
15 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
16 907d(b)(1)) is amended by striking “concurrent” and in-
17 serting “joint”.

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