

Calendar No. 322

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 3143**

To provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a pay increase until the annual Federal budget deficit is eliminated.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2010

Mr. COBURN introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

MARCH 19, 2010

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a pay increase until the annual Federal budget deficit is eliminated.

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 “The No Pay Raise
5 for Congress Until the Budget is Balanced Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Article I, section 9, of the United States
2 Constitution makes Congress responsible for all
3 money drawn from the United States Treasury.

4 (2) The United States national debt now ex-
5 ceeds \$12,600,000,000,000.

6 (3) The Federal budget deficit is projected to
7 amount to \$1,300,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2010
8 and the annual deficits will average nearly
9 \$1,000,000,000,000 for the next decade, according
10 to the Congressional Budget Office.

11 (4) Each American's share of the United States
12 national debt amounts to more than \$41,000.

13 (5) The United States national debt increases
14 more than \$4,000,000,000 each day.

15 (6) Foreign investors held 48 percent of the
16 United States' outstanding public debt at the end of
17 2009, including \$776,400,000,000 the United States
18 owes to Communist China.

19 (7) For the first time ever, the Federal budget
20 deficit has been singled out as the most important
21 issue facing the future of the country, according to
22 a Gallup poll conducted between March 4 and March
23 7, 2010.

24 (8) Eighty-three percent of Americans say the
25 size of the Federal budget deficit is due to the un-

1 willingness of politicians to cut Government spend-
2 ing and just 11 percent think the Government
3 spends taxpayers' money wisely, according to a na-
4 tional survey conducted between February 2 and
5 February 3, 2010, by Rasmussen Reports.

6 (9) More than twice as many United States
7 adults (58 percent) say that debt owed to China is
8 a more serious threat to the long-term security and
9 well-being of the United States than is terrorism
10 from radical Islamic terrorists (27 percent), accord-
11 ing to a Zogby Interactive survey conducted between
12 February 17 and February 19, 2010.

13 (10) For the reasons specified in paragraphs
14 (1) through (9)—

15 (A) Congress should make balancing the
16 Federal budget an urgent priority to protect the
17 national security, financial stability, and stand-
18 ard of living of the United States;

19 (B) because Congress has long refused to
20 make the tough decisions necessary to cut
21 wasteful spending, reducing the national debt
22 limit is the only sure way to force Congress to
23 live within its means; and

24 (C) the pay for members of Congress, who
25 are constitutionally responsible for the money

1 drawn from the United States Treasury and the
 2 debt that results from excessive spending,
 3 should not be increased until Congress has bal-
 4 anced the Federal budget.

5 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON PAY OF MEMBERS OF CON-**
 6 **GRESS.**

7 (a) RESTRICTION ON COLA ADJUSTMENTS.—Not-
 8 withstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment
 9 shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Re-
 10 organization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost
 11 of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fis-
 12 cal year 2011 or any succeeding fiscal year, until the fiscal
 13 year following the first fiscal year that the annual Federal
 14 budget deficit is \$0 as determined in the report submitted
 15 under subsection (b).

16 (b) DETERMINATIONS AND REPORTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
 18 the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of the
 19 Treasury shall—

20 (A) make a determination of whether or
 21 not the annual Federal budget deficit was \$0
 22 for that fiscal year; and

23 (B) if the determination is that the annual
 24 Federal budget deficit was \$0 for that fiscal

1 year, submit a report to Congress of that deter-
2 mination.

3 (2) RESTRICTION OF COLA ADJUSTMENTS.—

4 Not later than the end of each calendar year, the
5 Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a report to
6 the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Adminis-
7 trative Officer of the House of Representatives on—

8 (A) any determination made under para-
9 graph (1); and

10 (B) whether or not the restriction under
11 subsection (a) shall apply to the succeeding fis-
12 cal year.

13 **SEC. 4. REDUCTION OF THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE**
14 **PUBLIC DEBT.**

15 Notwithstanding section 3101(b) of title 31, United
16 States Code, or any other provision of law, the dollar
17 amount of the statutory limit on the public debt under
18 section 3101(b) of that title for the applicable fiscal year
19 shall be the following:

20 (1) Fiscal year 2011, \$13,900,000,000,000.

21 (2) Fiscal year 2012, \$13,700,000,000,000.

22 (3) Fiscal year 2013, \$13,500,000,000,000.

23 (4) Fiscal year 2014, \$12,300,000,000,000.

24 (5) Fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year there-
25 after, \$12,100,000,000,000.

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