

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3234

To withhold the pay of Members of Congress, the President, and the Vice President if a Government shutdown is in effect or the Government is unable to make payments or meet obligations because the public debt limit has been reached, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2013

Mr. HALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 withhold the pay of Members of Congress, the President, and the Vice President if a Government shutdown is in effect or the Government is unable to make payments or meet obligations because the public debt limit has been reached, 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 “Pay Accountability
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WITHHOLDING OF PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
2 **IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS IN EFFECT**
3 **OR PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT IS REACHED.**

4 (a) **HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.**—If during any
5 pay period during a Congress a Government shutdown is
6 in effect or the public debt limit is reached, the payroll
7 administrator of a House of Congress shall—

8 (1) withhold from the payments otherwise re-
9 quired to be made with respect to the pay period for
10 the compensation of each Member of Congress who
11 serves in that House of Congress an amount equal
12 to the product of—

13 (A) an amount equal to one day's worth of
14 pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to
15 the Member under section 601(a) of the Legis-
16 lative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31)
17 for the pay period; and

18 (B) the number of 24-hour periods during
19 which the Government shutdown is in effect or
20 the public debt limit is reached (as the case
21 may be) which occur during the pay period; and

22 (2) deposit in an escrow account all amounts
23 withheld under paragraph (1).

24 (b) **TRANSFER TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AT**
25 **END OF THE CONGRESS.**—

1 (1) TRANSFER.—The payroll administrator of a
2 House of Congress shall transfer to the Secretary of
3 the Treasury any amounts remaining in any escrow
4 account under this section on the last day of the
5 Congress involved.

6 (2) REQUIRING AMOUNTS TO BE USED FOR
7 DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amounts transferred to
8 the Secretary of the Treasury under paragraph (1)
9 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for def-
10 icit reduction.

11 (c) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The
12 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the payroll admin-
13 istrators of the Houses of Congress with such assistance
14 as may be necessary to enable the payroll administrators
15 to carry out this section.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 (1) the term “Member of Congress” means an
18 individual serving in a position under subparagraph
19 (A), (B), or (C) of section 601(a) of the Legislative
20 Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31); and

21 (2) the “payroll administrator” of a House of
22 Congress means—

23 (A) in the case of the House of Represent-
24 atives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the
25 House of Representatives, or an employee of

1 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
2 who is designated by the Chief Administrative
3 Officer to carry out this section; and

4 (B) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-
5 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-
6 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-
7 ignated by the Secretary to carry out this sec-
8 tion.

9 **SEC. 3. WITHHOLDING OF PAY OF PRESIDENT AND VICE**
10 **PRESIDENT IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OC-**
11 **CURS OR PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT IS REACHED.**

12 (a) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If during any
13 pay period during a President’s or Vice President’s term
14 of office a Government shutdown is in effect or the public
15 debt limit is reached, the White House Office shall—

16 (1) withhold from the payments otherwise re-
17 quired to be made with respect to the pay period for
18 the compensation of the President or the Vice Presi-
19 dent an amount equal to the product of—

20 (A) an amount equal to one day’s worth of
21 pay under the annual rate of compensation of
22 the President under 102 of title 3, United
23 States Code, or the annual rate of salary of the
24 Vice President under section 104 of title 3,

1 United States Code (as the case may be), for
2 the pay period; and

3 (B) the number of 24-hour periods during
4 which the Government shutdown is in effect or
5 the public debt limit is reached (as the case
6 may be) which occur during the pay period; and

7 (2) deposit in an escrow account all amounts
8 withheld under paragraph (1).

9 (b) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The
10 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the White House
11 Office with such assistance as may be necessary to enable
12 the White House Office to carry out this section.

13 (c) TRANSFER TO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AT
14 END OF TERM OF OFFICE.—

15 (1) TRANSFER.—The White House Office shall
16 transfer to the Secretary of the Treasury any
17 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this
18 section on the last day of the President's or Vice
19 President's term of office involved.

20 (2) REQUIRING AMOUNTS TO BE USED FOR
21 DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amounts transferred to
22 the Secretary of the Treasury under paragraph (1)
23 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for def-
24 icit reduction.

1 **SEC. 4. DETERMINATIONS.**

2 (a) GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.—For purposes of this
3 Act, a Government shutdown shall be considered to be in
4 effect if there is a lapse in appropriations for any Federal
5 agency or department as a result of a failure to enact a
6 regular appropriations bill or continuing resolution.

7 (b) PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.—For purposes of this Act,
8 the public debt limit shall be considered to be reached if
9 the Federal Government is unable to make payments or
10 meet obligations because the public debt limit under sec-
11 tion 3101 of title 31, United States Code, has been
12 reached.

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