

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4043

To suspend the debt ceiling temporarily, to hold the salaries of Members of a House of Congress in escrow if the House of Congress does not agree to a budget resolution or pass regular appropriation bills on a timely basis during a Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 suspend the debt ceiling temporarily, to hold the salaries of Members of a House of Congress in escrow if the House of Congress does not agree to a budget resolution or pass regular appropriation bills on a timely basis during a Congress, 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 “Getting Government
5 to Work Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DEBT CEILING.**

2 (a) SUSPENSION.—Section 3101(b) of title 31,
3 United States Code, shall not apply for the period begin-
4 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending
5 on February 2, 2015.

6 (b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS
7 ISSUED DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD.—Effective Feb-
8 ruary 3, 2015, the limitation in section 3101(b) of title
9 31, United States Code, as increased by section 3101A
10 of such title, is increased to the extent that—

11 (1) the face amount of obligations issued under
12 chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obli-
13 gations whose principal and interest are guaranteed
14 by the United States Government (except guaran-
15 teed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treas-
16 ury) outstanding on February 3, 2015, exceeds

17 (2) the face amount of such obligations out-
18 standing on the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 An obligation shall not be taken into account under para-
20 graph (1) unless the issuance of such obligation was nec-
21 essary to fund a commitment incurred by the Federal Gov-
22 ernment that required payment before February 3, 2015.

1 **SEC. 3. HOLDING SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN**
2 **ESCROW UPON FAILURE TO AGREE TO BUDG-**
3 **ET RESOLUTION OR PASS REGULAR APPRO-**
4 **PRIATIONS BILLS.**

5 (a) FAILURE TO PASS BUDGET RESOLUTION.—

6 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If by
7 April 15 of any calendar year (beginning with 2015),
8 a House of Congress has not agreed to a concurrent
9 resolution on the budget pursuant to section 301 of
10 the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for the fiscal
11 year which begins on October 1 of that calendar
12 year, during the period described in paragraph (2)
13 the payroll administrator of that House of Congress
14 shall deposit in an escrow account all payments oth-
15 erwise required to be made during such period for
16 the compensation of Members of Congress who serve
17 in that House of Congress, and shall release such
18 payments to such Members only upon the expiration
19 of such period.

20 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a
21 House of Congress and a calendar year, the period
22 described in this paragraph is the period which be-
23 gins on April 16 of the calendar year and ends on
24 the earlier of—

25 (A) the day on which the House of Con-
26 gress agrees to a concurrent resolution on the

1 budget for the fiscal year which begins on Octo-
2 ber 1 of that calendar year; or

3 (B) the last day of the Congress during
4 which that calendar year occurs.

5 (b) FAILURE TO PASS REGULAR APPROPRIATION
6 BILLS.—

7 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If by
8 July 31 of any calendar year (beginning with 2014),
9 a House of Congress has not passed each of the reg-
10 ular appropriation bills for the fiscal year which be-
11 gins on October 1 of that calendar year, during the
12 period described in paragraph (2) the payroll admin-
13 istrator of that House of Congress shall deposit in
14 an escrow account all payments otherwise required
15 to be made during such period for the compensation
16 of Members of Congress who serve in that House of
17 Congress, and shall release such payments to such
18 Members only upon the expiration of such period.

19 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a
20 House of Congress and a calendar year, the period
21 described in this paragraph is the period which be-
22 gins on August 1 of the calendar year and ends on
23 the earlier of—

24 (A) the first day by which the House of
25 Congress has passed each of the regular appro-

1 piation bills for the fiscal year which begins on
2 October 1 of that calendar year; or

3 (B) the last day of the Congress during
4 which that calendar year occurs.

5 (3) REGULAR APPROPRIATION BILL DE-
6 FINED.—The term “regular appropriation bill”
7 means any annual appropriation bill which, with re-
8 spect to the Congress involved, is under the jurisdic-
9 tion of a single subcommittee of the Committee on
10 Appropriations of the House of Representatives
11 (pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representa-
12 tives for that Congress) and a single subcommittee
13 of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate
14 (pursuant to the Standing Rules of the Senate).

15 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF ESCROW.—

16 (1) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF
17 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The
18 payroll administrator shall provide for the same
19 withholding and remittance with respect to a pay-
20 ment deposited in an escrow account under sub-
21 section (a) or subsection (b) that would apply to the
22 payment if the payment were not subject to such
23 section.

24 (2) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

25 The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the pay-

1 roll administrators of the Houses of Congress with
2 such assistance as may be necessary to enable the
3 payroll administrators to carry out this section.

4 (d) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF A CON-
5 GRESS.—In order to ensure that this section is carried out
6 in a manner consistent with the twenty-seventh article of
7 amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the
8 payroll administrator of a House of Congress shall release
9 for payments to Members of that House of Congress any
10 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this sec-
11 tion on the last day of the Congress during which the
12 amounts were deposited in such account.

13 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

14 (1) the term “Member” includes a Delegate or
15 Resident Commissioner to the Congress; and

16 (2) the “payroll administrator” of a House of
17 Congress means—

18 (A) in the case of the House of Represent-
19 atives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the
20 House of Representatives, or an employee of
21 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
22 who is designated by the Chief Administrative
23 Officer to carry out this section; and

24 (B) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-
25 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-

1 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-
2 ignated by the Secretary to carry out this sec-
3 tion.

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