

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 522

To reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. MESSER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget and Oversight and Government Reform, 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 reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Balanced Budget Accountability Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Federal debt exceeds \$16 trillion, con-
2 tinues to grow rapidly, and is larger than the size
3 of the United States economy.

4 (2) The Federal budget has shown an annual
5 deficit in 45 of the last 50 years.

6 (3) Deficits and the Federal debt threaten to
7 shatter confidence in the Nation's economy, suppress
8 job creation and economic growth, and leave future
9 generations of Americans with a lower standard of
10 living and fewer opportunities.

11 (4) It is the duty of Members of Congress to
12 develop and implement policies, including balancing
13 the Federal budget, that encourage robust job cre-
14 ation and economic growth in the United States.

15 (5) Members of Congress should be held ac-
16 countable for failing to pass annual budgets that re-
17 sult in a balanced budget.

18 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION**

19 **PROVIDING FOR BALANCED BUDGETS.**

20 (a) **ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION.**—Each
21 House of Congress shall adopt a concurrent resolution on
22 the budget for a fiscal year which provides that, for each
23 fiscal year for which a budget is provided under the resolu-
24 tion (beginning not later than with the budget for fiscal
25 year 2023), total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

1 (b) CERTIFICATION BY CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
 2 OFFICE.—Upon the adoption by a House of Congress of
 3 a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year,
 4 the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall
 5 transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 6 or the President pro Tempore of the Senate (as the case
 7 may be) a certification as to whether or not that House
 8 of Congress has met the requirements of subsection (a)
 9 with respect to the resolution.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with
 11 respect to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fis-
 12 cal year 2015 and each succeeding fiscal year.

13 **SEC. 3. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION.**

14 (a) RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.—

15 (1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If the Di-
 16 rector of the Congressional Budget Office (hereafter
 17 referred to as the “Director”) does not certify that
 18 a House of Congress has met the requirements of
 19 section 2(a) with respect to fiscal year 2015 prior to
 20 April 16, 2014, during the period described in para-
 21 graph (2) the payroll administrator of that House of
 22 Congress shall deposit in an escrow account all pay-
 23 ments otherwise required to be made during such
 24 period for the compensation of Members of Congress
 25 who serve in that House of Congress, and shall re-

1 lease such payments to such Members only upon the
2 expiration of such period.

3 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to a
4 House of Congress, the period described in this
5 paragraph is the period which begins on April 16,
6 2014, and ends on the earlier of—

7 (A) the day on which the Director certifies
8 that the House of Congress has met the re-
9 quirements of section 2(a) with respect to fiscal
10 year 2015; or

11 (B) the last day of the One Hundred Thir-
12 teenth Congress.

13 (3) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF
14 AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The
15 payroll administrator shall provide for the same
16 withholding and remittance with respect to a pay-
17 ment deposited in an escrow account under para-
18 graph (1) that would apply to the payment if the
19 payment were not subject to paragraph (1).

20 (4) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE
21 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection
22 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the
23 compensation of Senators or Representatives in vio-
24 lation of the twenty-seventh article of amendment to
25 the Constitution of the United States, the payroll

1 administrator of a House of Congress shall release
2 for payments to Members of that House of Congress
3 any amounts remaining in any escrow account under
4 this section on the last day of the One Hundred
5 Thirteenth Congress.

6 (5) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

7 The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the pay-
8 roll administrators of the Houses of Congress with
9 such assistance as may be necessary to enable the
10 payroll administrators to carry out this subsection.

11 (6) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In
12 this subsection, the “payroll administrator” of a
13 House of Congress means—

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

20 (B) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-
21 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-
22 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-
23 ignated by the Secretary to carry out this sec-
24 tion.

1 (b) RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND SUBSEQUENT
2 FISCAL YEARS.—If the Director of the Congressional
3 Budget Office does not certify that a House of Congress
4 has met the requirements of section 2(a) with respect to
5 a fiscal year prior to the April 16 which immediately pre-
6 cedes the first day of the fiscal year, during pay periods
7 which occur in the same calendar year after that date each
8 Member of that House shall be paid at an annual rate
9 of pay equal to \$1.

10 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Mem-
11 ber” includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the
12 Congress.

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