

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 57

To establish a timely and expeditious process for voting on the statutory debt limit.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To establish a timely and expeditious process for voting on the statutory debt limit.

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 “U.S.A. AAA Credit
5 Restoration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 31.**

7 Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “(b) LIMIT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
2 provision of law, the face amount of obligations
3 issued under this chapter and the face amount of ob-
4 ligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed
5 by the United States Government (except guaran-
6 teed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treas-
7 ury) may not be more than an amount determined
8 by the Secretary, as provided by this section.

9 “(2) SECRETARIAL MESSAGE.—

10 “(A) TIMING.—On the same day the Presi-
11 dent submits a budget to Congress as required
12 by section 1105 the Secretary shall submit to
13 the Congress a message on the public debt
14 limit.

15 “(B) CONTENTS.—The message shall in-
16 clude an estimate of the amount the public debt
17 limit will need to be increased, if necessary, for
18 the period of time between the submission of
19 the current Secretarial message and the Secre-
20 tarial message that will be submitted the fol-
21 lowing year, as required by subparagraph (A),
22 based on estimates of Federal revenues, manda-
23 tory expenditures, and discretionary expendi-
24 tures.

1 “(3) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—On the
2 same day the Secretary submits the message de-
3 scribed in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall publish
4 in the Federal Register the amount of the public
5 debt limit that would be necessary to accommodate
6 the requirements described in paragraph (2)(B).

7 “(4) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROC-
8 ESS.—

9 “(A) JOINT RESOLUTION.—For purposes
10 of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means
11 only a joint resolution introduced in the period
12 beginning on the date on which the notice de-
13 scribed in paragraph (3) is published in the
14 Federal Register and ending 3 days thereafter
15 (excluding days either House of Congress is ad-
16 jourled for more than 3 days during a session
17 of Congress), the matter after the resolving
18 clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress
19 disapproves of the Secretary’s exercise of au-
20 thority to increase the debt limit, as exercised
21 pursuant to the certification under section
22 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code.’.

23 “(B) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN
24 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

1 “(i) RECONVENING.—Upon publica-
2 tion of the Federal Register notice de-
3 scribed in paragraph (3) the Speaker, if
4 the House would otherwise be adjourned,
5 shall notify the Members of the House
6 that, pursuant to this subsection, the
7 House shall convene not later than the sec-
8 ond calendar day after receipt of such cer-
9 tification.

10 “(ii) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—
11 If the committee to which is referred a
12 joint resolution described in subparagraph
13 (A) has not reported such joint resolution
14 at the end of 6 calendar days after the
15 publication of the Federal Register notice
16 described in paragraph (3), such com-
17 mittee may be discharged from further
18 consideration of such joint resolution upon
19 a petition supported in writing by 218
20 Members of the House of Representatives,
21 and such joint resolution shall be placed on
22 the calendar.

23 “(iii) TIMING.—A petition to dis-
24 charge the joint resolution must be filed no
25 later than 6 calendar days after the publi-

1 cation of the Federal Register notice de-
2 scribed in paragraph (3).

3 “(iv) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER-
4 ATION.—After each committee authorized
5 to consider a joint resolution reports it to
6 the House or has been discharged from its
7 consideration, it shall be in order, not later
8 than the 3 calendar days after the joint
9 resolution under subparagraph (A) is re-
10 ported or discharged, to move to proceed
11 to consider the joint resolution in the
12 House. All points of order against the mo-
13 tion are waived. Such a motion shall not be
14 in order after the House has disposed of a
15 motion to proceed on a joint resolution ad-
16 dressing a particular submission. The pre-
17 vious question shall be considered as or-
18 dered on the motion to its adoption with-
19 out intervening motion. The motion shall
20 not be debatable. A motion to reconsider
21 the vote by which the motion is disposed of
22 shall not be in order.

23 “(v) CONSIDERATION.—The joint res-
24 olution shall be considered as read. All
25 points of order against the joint resolution

1 and against its consideration are waived.

2 The previous question shall be considered
3 as ordered on the joint resolution to its
4 passage without intervening motion except
5 two hours of debate equally divided and
6 controlled by the proponent and an oppo-
7 nent. A motion to reconsider the vote on
8 passage of the joint resolution shall not be
9 in order.

10 “(C) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE
11 SENATE.—

12 “(i) RECONVENING.—Upon publica-
13 tion of the Federal Register notice de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3), if the Senate has
15 adjourned or recessed for more than 2
16 days, the majority leader of the Senate,
17 after consultation with the minority leader
18 of the Senate, shall notify the Members of
19 the Senate that, pursuant to this section,
20 the Senate shall convene not later than the
21 second calendar day after publication of
22 such notice.

23 “(ii) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—
24 If the committee to which is referred a
25 joint resolution described in subparagraph

1 (A) has not reported such joint resolution
2 at the end of 6 calendar days after the
3 publication of Federal Register notice de-
4 scribed in paragraph (3), such committee
5 may be discharged from further consider-
6 ation of such joint resolution upon a peti-
7 tion supported in writing by 40 Members
8 of the Senate, and such joint resolution
9 shall be placed on the calendar.

10 “(iii) TIMING.—A petition to dis-
11 charge the joint resolution must be filed no
12 later than 6 calendar days after the publi-
13 cation of the Federal Register notice de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3).

15 “(iv) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER-
16 ATION.—When the committee to which a
17 joint resolution described in subparagraph
18 (A) is referred has reported, or when a
19 committee is discharged, it is at any time
20 thereafter in order for a motion to proceed
21 to the consideration of the joint resolution,
22 and all points of order against the joint
23 resolution (and against consideration of
24 the joint resolution) are waived. The mo-
25 tion is not subject to amendment, or to a

1 motion to postpone, or to a motion to pro-
 2 ceed to the consideration of other business.
 3 A motion to reconsider the vote by which
 4 the motion is agreed to or disagreed to
 5 shall not be in order. If a motion to pro-
 6 ceed to the consideration of the joint reso-
 7 lution is agreed to, the joint resolution
 8 shall remain the unfinished business of the
 9 Senate until disposed of.

10 “(v) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration
 11 of the joint resolution described in sub-
 12 paragraph (A) and on all debatable mo-
 13 tions and appeals in connection therewith,
 14 shall be limited to not more than 10 hours,
 15 which shall be divided equally between
 16 those favoring and those opposing the joint
 17 resolution. A motion further to limit de-
 18 bate is in order and not debatable. An
 19 amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or
 20 a motion to proceed to the consideration of
 21 other business, or a motion to recommit
 22 the joint resolution is not in order.

23 “(vi) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Sen-
 24 ate has voted to proceed to the joint reso-
 25 lution described in subparagraph (A), the

1 vote on passage of the joint resolution shall
2 occur immediately following the conclusion
3 of consideration of the joint resolution, and
4 a single quorum call at the conclusion of
5 the debate if requested in accordance with
6 the rules of the Senate.

7 “(vii) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON
8 PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions
9 of the Chair relating to the application of
10 the rules of the Senate to the procedure re-
11 lating to a joint resolution described in
12 subparagraph (A) shall be decided without
13 debate.

14 “(D) AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.—A
15 joint resolution considered pursuant to this sub-
16 section shall not be subject to amendment in ei-
17 ther the House of Representatives or the Sen-
18 ate.

19 “(E) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY
20 OTHER HOUSE.—If, before passing the joint
21 resolution described in subsection (A), one
22 House receives from the other a joint resolu-
23 tion—

1 “(i) the joint resolution of the other
2 House shall not be referred to a com-
3 mittee;

4 “(ii) the procedure in the receiving
5 House shall be the same as if no joint res-
6 olution had been received from the other
7 House until the vote on passage, when the
8 joint resolution received from the other
9 House shall supplant the joint resolution of
10 the receiving House;

11 “(iii) if the Senate fails to introduce
12 or consider a joint resolution under this
13 section, the joint resolution of the House
14 shall be entitled to expedited floor proce-
15 dures under this section;

16 “(iv) if, following passage of the joint
17 resolution in the Senate, the Senate then
18 receives the companion measure from the
19 House of Representatives, the companion
20 measure shall not be debatable; and

21 “(v) debate on a veto message in the
22 Senate under this section shall be 1 hour
23 equally divided between the majority and
24 minority leaders or their designees.

1 “(F) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
 2 TIVES AND SENATE.—This paragraph is en-
 3 acted by Congress—

4 “(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking
 5 power of the Senate and House of Rep-
 6 resentatives, respectively, and as such it is
 7 deemed a part of the rules of each House,
 8 respectively, but applicable only with re-
 9 spect to the procedure to be followed in
 10 that House in the case of a joint resolu-
 11 tion, and it supersedes other rules only to
 12 the extent that it is inconsistent with such
 13 rules; and

14 “(ii) with full recognition of the con-
 15 stitutional right of either House to change
 16 the rules (so far as relating to the proce-
 17 dure of that House) at any time, in the
 18 same manner, and to the same extent as in
 19 the case of any other rule of that House.”.

20 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 The amendment made by section 2 shall take effect
 22 January 1, 2014.

