

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3442

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT

To provide further means of accountability of the United
States debt and promote fiscal responsibility.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Debt Management and
3 Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY REPORT TO CON-**
5 **GRESS BEFORE REACHING DEBT LIMIT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 31 of
7 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following:

9 **“§ 3131. Report before reaching debt limit**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not more than sixty days and
11 not less than twenty-one days prior to any date on which
12 the Secretary of the Treasury anticipates the public debt
13 will reach the limit specified under section 3101, as modi-
14 fied by section 3101A, the Secretary shall appear before
15 the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate,
17 to submit the information described under subsection (b).

18 “(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PRE-
19 SENTED.—In an appearance described under subsection
20 (a), the Secretary shall submit the following:

21 “(1) DEBT REPORT.—A report on the state of
22 the public debt, including—

23 “(A) the historical levels of the debt, cur-
24 rent amount and composition of the debt, and
25 future projections of the debt;

1 “(B) the historical levels of Federal rev-
2 enue, including corporate and individual Fed-
3 eral income taxes as a percent of the gross do-
4 mestic product;

5 “(C) the drivers and composition of future
6 debt;

7 “(D) how, if the debt limit is raised, the
8 United States will meet debt obligations, includ-
9 ing principal and interest;

10 “(E) any reduction measures the Secretary
11 intends to take to fund Federal Government ob-
12 ligations if the debt limit is not raised, includ-
13 ing—

14 “(i) notifying the Congress when the
15 limit has been reached; and

16 “(ii) notifying the Congress when the
17 Secretary has begun taking such measures
18 and specifying which measures are cur-
19 rently being used; and

20 “(F) if the President recommends that
21 Congress adopt, in general, a balanced budget
22 amendment to the Constitution of the United
23 States to help control the accumulation of fu-
24 ture debt.

1 “(2) STATEMENT OF INTENT.—A detailed ex-
2 planation of—

3 “(A) proposals of the President to reduce
4 the public debt in the short term (the current
5 and following fiscal year), medium term (ap-
6 proximately three to five fiscal years), and long
7 term (approximately ten fiscal years), and pro-
8 posals of the President to adjust the debt-to-
9 gross domestic product ratio;

10 “(B) the impact an increased debt limit
11 will have on future Government spending, debt
12 service, and the position of the United States
13 dollar as the international reserve currency;

14 “(C) projections of fiscal health and sus-
15 tainability of major direct-spending entitlement
16 programs (including Social Security, Medicare,
17 and Medicaid);

18 “(D) the plan of the President for each
19 week that the debt of the United States Gov-
20 ernment is at the statutory limit, to publicly
21 disclose, on the website of the Department of
22 the Treasury, the following:

23 “(i) All reduction measures currently
24 being used by the Secretary to avoid de-
25 faulting on obligations of the Government.

1 “(ii) With respect to each reduction
2 measure, whether or not such measure is
3 currently being used—

4 “(I) the total dollar amount of
5 such measure that has been used; and

6 “(II) the total dollar amount of
7 such measure that the Secretary esti-
8 mates is still available for use.

9 “(iii) The date on which the Secretary
10 estimates that all reduction measures will
11 be exhausted, and the Government will
12 begin defaulting on its obligations;

13 “(E) any extraordinary measures the Sec-
14 retary intends to take to fund Federal govern-
15 ment obligations if the debt limit is not raised,
16 a projection of how long such extraordinary
17 measures will fund the Federal government,
18 and a projection of the administrative cost of
19 taking such extraordinary measures; and

20 “(F) whether the Administration acknowl-
21 edges that it is technologically capable of pay-
22 ing only principal and interest on the national
23 debt, as opposed to other obligations, in the
24 event that the debt limit, as specified under sec-
25 tion 3101, is reached.

1 “(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A detailed report on
3 the progress of implementing all proposals of
4 the President described under subparagraph
5 (A) of paragraph (2).

6 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The report described
7 under this paragraph shall only be submitted if
8 a Secretary has already appeared at least once
9 pursuant to this section during any term of of-
10 fice for a particular President.

11 “(c) PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Sec-
12 retary of the Treasury shall place on the homepage of the
13 Department of the Treasury a link to a webpage that shall
14 serve as a repository of information made available to the
15 public for at least 6 months following the date of release
16 of the relevant information, including:

17 “(1) The debt report submitted under sub-
18 section (b)(1).

19 “(2) The detailed explanation submitted under
20 subsection (b)(2).

21 “(3) The progress report submitted under sub-
22 section (b)(3).

23 “(4) Such other information as the Secretary
24 reasonably believes is necessary or helpful to the
25 public in understanding the statutory debt limit,

1 Government debt, and the reports and explanations
2 described under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

3 “(d) REDUCTION MEASURES DEFINED.—For pur-
4 poses of this section, the term ‘reduction measures’ means
5 each of the following:

6 “(1) Directing or approving the issuance of
7 debt by the Federal Financing Bank for the purpose
8 of entering into an exchange transaction for debt
9 that is subject to the limit under this section.

10 “(2) Suspending investments in the Govern-
11 ment Securities Investment Fund of the Thrift Sav-
12 ings Fund.

13 “(3) Suspending investments in the stabiliza-
14 tion fund established under section 5302 of title 31,
15 United States Code.

16 “(4) Suspending new investments in the Civil
17 Service Retirement and Disability Fund or the Post-
18 al Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

19 “(5) Selling or redeeming securities, obligations,
20 or other invested assets of the Civil Service Retire-
21 ment and Disability Fund or the Postal Service Re-
22 tiree Health Benefits Fund before maturity.

23 “(6) Such other measures as the Secretary de-
24 termines appropriate.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of analysis
2 for chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended
3 by inserting after the item relating to section 3130 the
4 following:

“3131. Report before reaching debt limit.”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 11,
2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.