

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3803

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to establish joint resolutions on the budget, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 22, 2015

Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. RIBBLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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

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## A BILL

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to establish joint resolutions on the 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Legally Binding Budg-  
5       et Act of 2015”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       Section 3 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
8       is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the  
9       following new paragraph:

1           “(4) The term ‘joint resolution on the budget’  
2       means—

3           “(A) a joint resolution setting forth the  
4       budget for the United States Government for a  
5       fiscal year as provided in section 301; and

6           “(B) any other joint resolution revising the  
7       budget for the United States Government for a  
8       fiscal year as described in section 304.”.

9   **SEC. 3. REVISION OF TIMETABLE.**

10       Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
11   (2 U.S.C. 631) is amended to read as follows:

12                                   “TIMETABLE

13       “SEC. 300. The timetable with respect to the congres-  
14   sional budget process for any Congress (beginning with  
15   the One Hundred Fifteenth) is as follows:

**“On or before:**

First Monday in February .....  
February 15 .....  
  
Not later than 6 weeks after  
  budget submission.  
April 1 .....  
  
April 15 .....  
  
May 15 .....  
  
June 10 .....  
  
June 30 .....  
  
October 1 .....

**Action to be completed:**

President submits budget recommendations.  
Congressional Budget Office submits report  
  to Budget Committees.  
Committees submit views and estimates to  
  Budget Committees.  
Budget Committees report joint resolution on  
  the budget.  
Congress completes action on joint resolution  
  on the budget.  
Appropriation bills may be considered in the  
  House of Representatives.  
House Appropriations Committee reports last  
  appropriation bill.  
House completes action on appropriation  
  bills.  
Fiscal year begins.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 301 AND 303 AND TECH-**  
 2 **NICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Congressional  
 4 Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

5 (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”, by strik-  
 6 ing “has been agreed to” and inserting “takes ef-  
 7 fect”, and by striking subsections (b) and (c); and

8 (2) by striking its section heading and inserting  
 9 the following new section heading: “CONSIDERATION  
 10 OF BUDGET-RELATED LEGISLATION BEFORE BUDG-  
 11 ET BECOMES LAW”.

12 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 301(a)(5) of  
 13 the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by in-  
 14 serting “for display purposes only,” before “the public  
 15 debt”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating  
 17 to section 303 in the table of contents set forth in section  
 18 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Con-  
 19 trol Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 303. Consideration of budget-related legislation before budget becomes  
 law.”.

20 **SEC. 5. PERMISSIBLE REVISIONS OF BUDGET RESOLU-**  
 21 **TIONS.**

22 Section 304 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
 23 is amended to read as follows:

1 “PERMISSIBLE REVISIONS OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

2 “SEC. 304. At any time after the joint resolution on  
 3 the budget for a fiscal year has been enacted pursuant  
 4 to section 301, and before the end of such fiscal year, the  
 5 two Houses and the President may enact a joint resolution  
 6 on the budget which revises or reaffirms the joint resolu-  
 7 tion on the budget for such fiscal year most recently en-  
 8 acted, and for purposes of the enforcement of the Congres-  
 9 sional Budget Act of 1974, the chairman of the Budget  
 10 Committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate,  
 11 as applicable, may adjust levels as needed for the enforce-  
 12 ment of the budget resolution.”.

13 **SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON THE CONTENT OF BUDGET RESO-**  
 14 **LUTIONS.**

15 Section 305 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
 16 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 17 section:

18 “(e) LIMITATION ON CONTENTS.—(1) It shall not be  
 19 in order in the House of Representatives or in the Senate  
 20 to consider any joint resolution on the budget or any  
 21 amendment thereto or conference report thereon that con-  
 22 tains any matter referred to in paragraph (2).

23 “(2) Any joint resolution on the budget or any  
 24 amendment thereto or conference report thereon that con-  
 25 tains any matter not permitted in section 301 (a) or (b)

1 shall not be treated in the House of Representatives or  
 2 the Senate as a budget resolution under subsection (a) or  
 3 (b) or as a conference report on a budget resolution under  
 4 subsection (c) of this section.”.

5 **SEC. 7. DEEMING OF BUDGETARY AGGREGATES, ALLOCA-**  
 6 **TIONS, AND RECONCILIATION INSTRUCTIONS**  
 7 **IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE UPON VETO OF**  
 8 **JOINT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional  
 10 Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding after section  
 11 315 the following new section:

12 “AUTOMATIC STANDING ORDER UPON VETO OF JOINT  
 13 RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

14 “SEC. 316. For purposes of congressional enforce-  
 15 ment under titles III and IV of this Act and the rules  
 16 of the House and the Senate, the joint resolution shall  
 17 be considered as enforceable upon enactment or 15 days  
 18 following presentment to the President, whichever occurs  
 19 earlier.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
 21 tents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget  
 22 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by in-  
 23 serting after the item relating to section 315 the following  
 24 new item:

“Sec. 316. Automatic standing order upon veto of joint resolution on the budg-  
 et.”.

1 **SEC. 8. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRES-**  
2 **SIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 TO EFFEC-**  
3 **TUATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDG-**  
4 **ET.**

5 (a) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRES-  
6 SIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF  
7 1974.—(1)(A) Sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 308,  
8 310, 311, 312, 314, 405, and 904 of the Congressional  
9 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) are amended  
10 by striking “concurrent” each place it appears and insert-  
11 ing “joint”.

12 (B)(i) Sections 302(d), 302(g), 308(a)(1)(A), and  
13 310(d)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are  
14 amended by striking “most recently agreed to concurrent  
15 resolution on the budget” each place it occurs and insert-  
16 ing “most recently enacted joint resolution on the budg-  
17 et”.

18 (ii) The section heading of section 301 of such Act  
19 is amended by striking “ANNUAL ADOPTION OF CONCUR-  
20 RENT RESOLUTION” and inserting “JOINT RESOLUTIONS”.

21 (C) Sections 302, 303, 304, 310, and 311 of the Con-  
22 gressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by striking  
23 “agreed to” each place it appears and by inserting “en-  
24 acted”.

1       (2) The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of  
 2 the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act  
 3 of 1974 is amended—

4           (A) in the item relating to section 301, by strik-  
 5 ing “Annual adoption of concurrent resolution” and  
 6 inserting “Joint resolutions”; and

7           (B) by striking “concurrent” and inserting  
 8 “joint” in the item relating to section 305.

9       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Any side heading  
 10 within any section of title III of the Congressional Budget  
 11 and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by  
 12 striking “CONCURRENT” and inserting “JOINT” and any  
 13 center heading in any section of that title is amended by  
 14 striking “CONCURRENT” and inserting “JOINT”.

15 **SEC. 9. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF**  
 16 **REPRESENTATIVES TO EFFECTUATE JOINT**  
 17 **BUDGET RESOLUTIONS.**

18       Clauses 1(d)(1), 4(a)(4), 4(b)(2), 4(f)(1)(A), and  
 19 4(f)(2) of rule X, clause 10 of rule XVIII, clause 10 of  
 20 rule XX, and clauses 7 and 10 of rule XXI of the Rules  
 21 of the House of Representatives are amended by striking  
 22 “concurrent” each place it appears and inserting “joint”.

1 **SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED**  
2 **BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL**  
3 **ACT OF 1985.**

4 Section 258C(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and  
5 Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.  
6 907d(b)(1)) is amended by striking “concurrent” and in-  
7 serting “joint”.

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