

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3807

To provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 22, 2015

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. LEE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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 provide a process for ensuring the United States does not default on its obligations.

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 “Pay Our Bills Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL PRESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION OF THE**
2 **DEBT CEILING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of
4 subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in section 3101(b), by inserting “or 3101B”
6 after “section 3101A”; and

7 (2) by inserting after section 3101A the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“§ 3101B. Additional Presidential modification of the**
10 **debt ceiling**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(1) CERTIFICATION.—If the President submits
13 a written certification to Congress that the Presi-
14 dent has determined that the debt subject to limit
15 is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit under sec-
16 tion 3101(b) and that further borrowing, in an
17 amount specified in the certification, is required to
18 meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the
19 Treasury may, unless a joint resolution of dis-
20 approval is enacted pursuant to this section, exercise
21 authority to borrow an additional amount equal to
22 the amount specified in the certification.

23 “(2) RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Congress
24 may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the
25 authority under paragraph (1) as provided in sub-
26 sections (c) through (g). If the time for disapproval

1 has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of
2 disapproval under this section, the debt limit is in-
3 creased by the amount authorized under paragraph
4 (1).

5 “(b) SUSPENSION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) shall not
7 apply for the period beginning on the date on which
8 the President submits to Congress a certification
9 under subsection (a) and ending on the earlier of—

10 “(A) the date that is 15 calendar days
11 after Congress receives the certification, deter-
12 mined in accordance with subsection (g)(4)(A);
13 or

14 “(B) the date of enactment of a joint reso-
15 lution disapproving the President’s exercise of
16 authority with respect to the debt limit under
17 that certification.

18 “(2) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS
19 ISSUED DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD.—Effective on
20 the day after the applicable date described in para-
21 graph (1), the limitation in section 3101(b), as in-
22 creased under any provision of law, is increased to
23 the extent that—

24 “(A) the face amount of obligations issued
25 under this chapter and the face amount of obli-

gations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on the calendar day after the date described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, exceeds

“(B) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date on which the President submits the applicable certification.

An obligation shall not be taken into account under subparagraph (A) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred by the Federal Government that required payment before the day after the applicable date described in paragraph (1).

“(c) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b)(2), the debt limit shall not be increased under this section if, within 15 calendar days after Congress receives the certification described in subsection (a)(1) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President’s exercise of authority with respect to such increase.

1 “(2) CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—For
2 the purpose of this section, the term ‘joint resolu-
3 tion’ means only a joint resolution—

4 “(A) that is introduced between the date a
5 certification described in subsection (a)(1) is re-
6 ceived and 3 calendar days after that date;

7 “(B) which does not have a preamble;

8 “(C) the title of which is only as follows:
9 ‘Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of
10 the President’s exercise of authority to increase
11 the debt limit, as submitted under section
12 3101B of title 31, United States Code, on
13 _____.’ (with the blank containing the
14 date of such submission); and

15 “(D) the matter after the resolving clause
16 of which is only as follows: ‘That Congress dis-
17 approves of the President’s exercise of authority
18 to increase the debt limit, as exercised pursuant
19 to the certification submitted under section
20 3101B(a) of title 31, United States Code, on
21 _____.’ (with the blank containing the
22 date of such submission).

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

1 “(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certifi-
2 cation described in subsection (a)(1), the Speaker, if
3 the House would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify
4 the Members of the House that, pursuant to this
5 section, the House shall convene not later than the
6 second calendar day after receipt of such certifi-
7 cation.

8 “(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any com-
9 mittee of the House of Representatives to which a
10 joint resolution is referred shall report it to the
11 House without amendment not later than 5 calendar
12 days after the date of introduction of the joint reso-
13 lution. If a committee fails to report the joint resolu-
14 tion within that period, the committee shall be dis-
15 charged from further consideration of the joint reso-
16 lution and the joint resolution shall be referred to
17 the appropriate calendar.

18 “(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
19 each committee authorized to consider a joint resolu-
20 tion reports it to the House or has been discharged
21 from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later
22 than the sixth day after introduction of the joint res-
23 olution, to move to proceed to consider the joint res-
24 olution in the House. All points of order against the
25 motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in

1 order after the House has disposed of a motion to
2 proceed on a joint resolution addressing a particular
3 submission. The previous question shall be consid-
4 ered as ordered on the motion to its adoption with-
5 out intervening motion. The motion shall not be de-
6 batable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which
7 the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

8 “(4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution
9 shall be considered as read. All points of order
10 against the joint resolution and against its consider-
11 ation are waived. The previous question shall be con-
12 sidered as ordered on the joint resolution to its pas-
13 sage without intervening motion except 2 hours of
14 debate equally divided and controlled by the pro-
15 ponent and an opponent. An amendment to the joint
16 resolution or a motion to reconsider the vote on pas-
17 sage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

18 “(e) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN SENATE.—

19 “(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certifi-
20 cation under subsection (a)(1), if the Senate has ad-
21 journed or recessed for more than 2 days, the major-
22 ity leader of the Senate, after consultation with the
23 minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Mem-
24 bers of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the

1 Senate shall convene not later than the second cal-
2 endar day after receipt of such message.

3 “(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon intro-
4 duction in the Senate, a joint resolution shall be im-
5 mediately placed on the calendar.

6 “(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule
8 XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is
9 in order at any time during the period begin-
10 ning on the day after the date on which Con-
11 gress receives a certification under subsection
12 (a)(1) and ending on the sixth day after the
13 date of introduction of a joint resolution (even
14 though a previous motion to the same effect has
15 been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the
16 consideration of the joint resolution, and all
17 points of order against the joint resolution (and
18 against consideration of the joint resolution)
19 are waived. The motion to proceed is not debat-
20 able. The motion is not subject to a motion to
21 postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by
22 which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to
23 shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to
24 the consideration of the resolution is agreed to,

1 the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished
2 business until disposed of.

3 “(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of
4 the joint resolution, and on all debatable mo-
5 tions and appeals in connection therewith, shall
6 be limited to not more than 10 hours, which
7 shall be divided equally between the majority
8 and minority leaders or their designees. A mo-
9 tion further to limit debate is in order and not
10 debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to
11 postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consid-
12 eration of other business, or a motion to recom-
13 mit the joint resolution is not in order.

14 “(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate
15 has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the
16 vote on passage of the joint resolution shall
17 occur immediately following the conclusion of
18 consideration of the joint resolution, and a sin-
19 gle quorum call at the conclusion of the debate
20 if requested in accordance with the rules of the
21 Senate.

22 “(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
23 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
24 relating to the application of the rules of the
25 Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure re-

1 lating to a joint resolution shall be decided
2 without debate.

3 “(f) AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.—A joint resolu-
4 tion of disapproval considered pursuant to this section
5 shall not be subject to amendment in either the House
6 of Representatives or the Senate.

7 “(g) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER
8 HOUSE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing the joint
10 resolution, one House receives from the other a joint
11 resolution—

12 “(A) the joint resolution of the other
13 House shall not be referred to a committee; and

14 “(B) the procedure in the receiving House
15 shall be the same as if no joint resolution had
16 been received from the other House, except that
17 the vote on final passage shall be on the joint
18 resolution of the other House.

19 “(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF
20 OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or
21 consider a joint resolution under this section, the
22 joint resolution of the House shall be entitled to ex-
23 pedited floor procedures under this section.

24 “(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—
25 If, following passage of the joint resolution in the

1 Senate, the Senate receives the companion measure
2 from the House of Representatives, the companion
3 measure shall not be debatable.

4 “(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a
6 joint resolution, the period beginning on the
7 date the President is presented with the joint
8 resolution and ending on the date the President
9 signs, allows to become law without his signa-
10 ture, or vetoes and returns the joint resolution
11 (but excluding days when either House is not in
12 session) shall be disregarded in computing the
13 calendar day period described in subsection
14 (b)(1) or subsection (c)(1).

15 “(B) DEBATE.—Debate on a veto message
16 in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour
17 equally divided between the majority and minor-
18 ity leaders or their designees.

19 “(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If within the calendar
20 day period described in subsection (c)(1), Congress
21 overrides a veto of a joint resolution, except as pro-
22 vided in subsection (b)(2), the limit on debt provided
23 in section 3101(b) shall not be raised under this sec-
24 tion.

1 “(h) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
2 SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (c), (d), (e),
3 (f), and (g) are enacted by Congress—

4 “(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
5 the Senate and House of Representatives, respec-
6 tively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules
7 of each House, respectively, but applicable only with
8 respect to the procedure to be followed in that
9 House in the case of a joint resolution, and it super-
10 sedes other rules only to the extent that it is incon-
11 sistent with such rules; and

12 “(2) with full recognition of the constitutional
13 right of either House to change the rules (so far as
14 relating to the procedure of that House) at any time,
15 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in
16 the case of any other rule of that House.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
18 tions for chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is
19 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
20 3101A the following:

“3101B. Additional Presidential modification of the debt ceiling.”.

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