

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3835

To increase the statutory limit on the public debt by \$1 trillion upon the adoption by Congress of a balanced budget Constitutional amendment and by an additional \$1 trillion upon ratification by the States of that amendment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 27, 2015

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To increase the statutory limit on the public debt by \$1 trillion upon the adoption by Congress of a balanced budget Constitutional amendment and by an additional \$1 trillion upon ratification by the States of that amendment.

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 “Protecting America’s
5 Solvency Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUB-**
2 **LIC DEBT.**

3 (a) ADOPTION.—Effective upon the adoption by the
4 Congress of a balanced budget Constitutional amendment
5 with the provisions described in section 3 below, the statu-
6 tory limit on the public debt set forth in section 3101(b)
7 of title 31, United States Code, is increased by \$1 trillion.

8 (b) RATIFICATION.—Effective upon the ratification
9 by the States of the balanced budget Constitutional
10 amendment with the provisions described in section 3
11 below, the statutory limit on the public debt set forth in
12 section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, is in-
13 creased by an additional \$1 trillion.

14 **SEC. 3. REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF A BALANCED BUDGET**
15 **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

16 A balanced budget Constitutional amendment, to
17 comply with the requirements of section 2 above, must in-
18 clude the following provisions:

19 (1) Total outlays of the United States for any
20 fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fis-
21 cal year. Total receipts shall include all receipts of
22 the United States except those derived from bor-
23 rowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the
24 United States except those for repayment of debt
25 principal. The United States shall have no fiscal

1 year deficits except pursuant to the terms of the
2 amendment.

3 (2) The fiscal year deficit prohibition described
4 herein may be suspended by a majority of the mem-
5 bership of both Houses of Congress, by roll call vote,
6 for any fiscal year in which the United States is ac-
7 tively engaged in military conflict pursuant to a war
8 declared by Congress pursuant to article I, section
9 8, or may be suspended by four-fifths of the mem-
10 bership of Congress, by roll call vote, for any other
11 fiscal year.

12 (3) In any fiscal year in which Congress does
13 not suspend the amendment pursuant to its terms
14 and in which total outlays will or may exceed total
15 receipts, the President shall take such steps as are
16 necessary to ensure total outlays for that fiscal year
17 do not exceed total receipts. The President may not
18 order any increase in taxes or other revenue meas-
19 ures to enforce the amendment. A President's failure
20 to prevent a prohibited fiscal year deficit is an im-
21 peachable offense.

22 (4) Any Member of Congress and any Governor
23 or attorney general of any State shall have standing
24 and a cause of action to seek judicial enforcement of
25 the amendment. No court of the United States or of

1 any State may order any increase in taxes or other
2 revenue measures to prevent or reduce fiscal year
3 deficits.

4 (5)(A) The amendment shall be phased-in be-
5 ginning with the first fiscal year commencing six or
6 more months after ratification of the amendment by
7 the States.

8 (B) Within three months after ratification,
9 the President shall calculate the total outlays,
10 the total receipts, and the resulting deficit of
11 the United States for the fiscal year in which
12 the amendment was ratified. This deficit is the
13 “Base Deficit”.

14 (C) Fiscal year deficits shall be phased out
15 as follows:

16 (i) The deficit for the first fiscal year
17 commencing 6 or more months after ratifi-
18 cation by the States of the amendment
19 shall not exceed 80 percent of the Base
20 Deficit.

21 (ii) The deficit for the first fiscal year
22 commencing 18 or more months after rati-
23 fication by the States of the amendment
24 shall not exceed 60 percent of the Base
25 Deficit.

1 (iii) The deficit for the first fiscal year
2 commencing 30 or more months after rati-
3 fication by the States of the amendment
4 shall not exceed 40 percent of the Base
5 Deficit.

6 (iv) The deficit for the first fiscal year
7 commencing 42 or more months after rati-
8 fication by the States of the amendment
9 shall not exceed 20 percent of the Base
10 Deficit.

11 (v) There shall be no deficit for any
12 fiscal year commencing 54 or more months
13 after ratification by the States of the
14 amendment.

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