

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. DAINES introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Balanced Budget Accountability Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1)     The     Federal     debt     exceeds  
2     \$27,000,000,000,000, continues to grow rapidly, and  
3     is larger than the size of the United States economy.

4           (2)     The Federal budget has shown an annual  
5     deficit in 51 of the last 56 years.

6           (3)     Deficits and the Federal debt threaten to  
7     shatter confidence in the Nation's economy, suppress  
8     job creation and economic growth, and leave future  
9     generations of Americans with a lower standard of  
10    living and fewer opportunities.

11          (4)     It is the duty of Members of Congress to  
12    develop and implement policies, including balancing  
13    the Federal budget, that encourage robust job cre-  
14    ation and economic growth in the United States.

15          (5)     Members of Congress should be held ac-  
16    countable for failing to pass annual budgets that re-  
17    sult in a balanced budget.

18   **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION PRO-**

19                           **VIDING FOR BALANCED BUDGETS.**

20    (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

21          (1)     the term “balanced budget” means a con-  
22    current resolution on the budget which provides that  
23    for fiscal year 2031, and each fiscal year thereafter  
24    to which the concurrent resolution on the budget ap-  
25    plies—

1 (A) total outlays do not exceed total re-  
2 ceipts; and

3 (B) total outlays are not more than 18  
4 percent of the projected gross domestic product  
5 of the United States (as determined by the Bu-  
6 reau of Economic Analysis of the Department  
7 of Commerce) for such fiscal year;

8 (2) the term “Director” means the Director of  
9 the Office of Management and Budget; and

10 (3) the term “Member” includes a Delegate or  
11 Resident Commissioner to Congress.

12 (b) DETERMINATION BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGE-  
13 MENT AND BUDGET.—Upon adoption by a House of Con-  
14 gress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal  
15 year, the Director shall—

16 (1) determine whether the concurrent resolution  
17 on the budget is a balanced budget; and

18 (2) submit to the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives or the President pro tempore of the  
20 Senate (as the case may be) a certification as to  
21 whether or not that House of Congress has adopted  
22 a balanced budget.

23 (c) RULE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023.—

24 (1) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—

1           (A) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If  
2           the Director does not certify that a House of  
3           Congress has adopted a balanced budget with  
4           respect to fiscal year 2022 before April 16,  
5           2021, during the period described in subpara-  
6           graph (B) the payroll administrator of that  
7           House of Congress shall deposit in an escrow  
8           account all payments otherwise required to be  
9           made during such period for the compensation  
10          of Members of Congress who serve in that  
11          House of Congress, and shall release such pay-  
12          ments to such Members only upon the expira-  
13          tion of such period.

14          (B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to  
15          a House of Congress, the period described in  
16          this subparagraph is the period that begins on  
17          April 16, 2021, and ends on the earlier of—

18                 (i) the date on which the Director cer-  
19                 tifies that the House of Congress has  
20                 adopted a balanced budget with respect to  
21                 fiscal year 2022; or

22                 (ii) the last day of the One Hundred  
23                 Seventeenth Congress.

24          (2) FISCAL YEAR 2023.—

1           (A) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If  
2           the Director does not certify that a House of  
3           Congress has adopted a balanced budget with  
4           respect to fiscal year 2023 before April 16,  
5           2022, during the period described in subpara-  
6           graph (B) the payroll administrator of that  
7           House of Congress shall deposit in an escrow  
8           account all payments otherwise required to be  
9           made during such period for the compensation  
10          of Members of Congress who serve in that  
11          House of Congress, and shall release such pay-  
12          ments to such Members only upon the expira-  
13          tion of such period.

14          (B) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—With respect to  
15          a House of Congress, the period described in  
16          this subparagraph is the period that begins on  
17          April 16, 2022, and ends on the earlier of—

18                 (i) the date on which the Director cer-  
19                 tifies that the House of Congress has  
20                 adopted a balanced budget with respect to  
21                 fiscal year 2023; or

22                 (ii) the last day of the One Hundred  
23                 Seventeenth Congress.

24          (3) WITHHOLDING AND REMITTANCE OF  
25          AMOUNTS FROM PAYMENTS HELD IN ESCROW.—The

1 payroll administrator shall provide for the same  
2 withholding and remittance with respect to a pay-  
3 ment deposited in an escrow account under para-  
4 graph (1) or (2) that would apply to the payment if  
5 the payment were not subject to paragraph (1) or  
6 (2).

7 (4) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE  
8 CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection  
9 is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the  
10 compensation of Senators or Representatives in vio-  
11 lation of the twenty-seventh amendment to the Con-  
12 stitution of the United States, the payroll adminis-  
13 trator of a House of Congress shall release for pay-  
14 ments to Members of that House of Congress any  
15 amounts remaining in any escrow account under this  
16 section on the last day of the One Hundred Seven-  
17 teenth Congress.

18 (5) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—  
19 The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide the pay-  
20 roll administrators of the Houses of Congress with  
21 such assistance as may be necessary to enable the  
22 payroll administrators to carry out this subsection.

23 (6) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In  
24 this subsection, the “payroll administrator” of a  
25 House of Congress means—

1 (A) in the case of the House of Represent-  
2 atives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the  
3 House of Representatives, or an employee of  
4 the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
5 who is designated by the Chief Administrative  
6 Officer to carry out this section; and

7 (B) in the case of the Senate, the Sec-  
8 retary of the Senate, or an employee of the Of-  
9 fice of the Secretary of the Senate who is des-  
10 ignated by the Secretary to carry out this sec-  
11 tion.

12 (d) **RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND SUBSEQUENT**  
13 **FISCAL YEARS.**—If the Director does not certify that a  
14 House of Congress has adopted a balanced budget with  
15 respect to fiscal year 2024, or any fiscal year thereafter,  
16 before April 16 of the fiscal year before such fiscal year,  
17 during pay periods which occur in the same calendar year  
18 after that date each Member of that House shall be paid  
19 at an annual rate of pay equal to \$1.

20 **SEC. 3. SUPERMAJORITY REQUIREMENT FOR INCREASING**  
21 **REVENUE.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In the Senate and the House of  
23 Representatives, a bill, joint resolution, amendment, con-  
24 ference report, or amendment between the Houses that in-  
25 creases revenue shall only be agreed to upon an affirma-

1 tive vote of three-fifths of the Members of that House of  
2 Congress duly chosen and sworn.

3 (b) RULES OF SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REP-  
4 RESENTATIVES.—Subsection (a) is enacted by Congress—

5 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
6 the Senate and House of Representatives, respec-  
7 tively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules  
8 of each House, respectively, but applicable only with  
9 respect to the procedure to be followed in that  
10 House in the case of a bill, joint resolution, amend-  
11 ment, conference report, or amendment between the  
12 Houses that increases revenue, and it supersedes  
13 other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent  
14 with such rules; and

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