

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2653

To provide that Members of Congress shall be paid last whenever the Treasury is unable to liquidate the obligations of the United States Government in a timely manner because the public debt limit has been reached.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2011

Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SHULER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. HIMES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To provide that Members of Congress shall be paid last whenever the Treasury is unable to liquidate the obligations of the United States Government in a timely manner because the public debt limit has been reached.

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 “Stop Pay for Members
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO BE PAID LAST.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the event that the public debt
3 of the United States Government reaches the public debt
4 limit, the obligation to pay basic pay of Members of Con-
5 gress may not be liquidated until—

6 (1) all other obligations of the United States
7 Government which are then due have been liq-
8 uidated; or

9 (2) if earlier, the ability of the Treasury to liq-
10 uidate the obligations of the United States Govern-
11 ment in timely manner is restored, whether by an in-
12 crease in the public debt limit or otherwise.

13 (b) CONSENT.—Each Member of Congress consents
14 and agrees that payment of basic pay in accordance with
15 subsection (a) shall constitute a full and complete dis-
16 charge and acquittance of all claims and demands for serv-
17 ice as such a Member during the period covered by the
18 payment.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 For purposes of this Act—

21 (1) the term “public debt limit” means the dol-
22 lar limitation contained in section 3101(b) of title
23 31, United States Code; and

24 (2) the term “Member of Congress” means—

25 (A) each Senator, Member of the House of
26 Representatives, and Delegate to the House of

1 Representatives, and the Resident Commis-
2 sioner from Puerto Rico;

3 (B) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
4 ate, the majority leader and the minority leader
5 of the Senate, and the majority leader and the
6 minority leader of the House of Representa-
7 tives; and

8 (C) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives.

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