

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2402

To specify the priority of the obligations of the United States Government  
if the debt ceiling is reached.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2011

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

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## A BILL

To specify the priority of the obligations of the United States  
Government if the debt ceiling is 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 “Prioritize Spending  
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY OF PAYMENTS IF THE DEBT CEILING IS**  
7 **REACHED.**

8 In the event that the debt of the United States Gov-  
9 ernment, as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United  
10 States Code, reaches the statutory limit, amounts nec-

1    essary for obligations incurred by the Government of the  
2    United States shall be made available to the following obli-  
3    gations before all other obligations and shall be made  
4    available as prioritized in the following order (with items  
5    listed in descending order of prioritization):

6           (1) Amounts necessary to carry out the author-  
7           ity of the Department of the Treasury provided in  
8           section 3123 of title 31, United States Code, to pay  
9           with legal tender the principal and interest on debt  
10          held by the public.

11          (2) Such amounts as the Secretary of Defense  
12          (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case  
13          of the Coast Guard) determines to be necessary to  
14          continue to provide pay and allowances (without  
15          interruption) to members of the Army, Navy, Air  
16          Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including  
17          reserve components thereof, who perform active serv-  
18          ice.

19          (3) Such amounts as the President certifies to  
20          the Congress are necessary to carry out vital na-  
21          tional security priorities.

22          (4) Amounts necessary to carry out the author-  
23          ity of the Commissioner of Social Security to pay  
24          monthly old-age, survivors', and disability insurance  
25          benefits under title II of the Social Security Act.

1           (5) Amounts necessary to make payments  
2           under the Medicare program under title XVIII of  
3           the Social Security Act.

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