

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2685

To increase the statutory limit on the public debt by \$750,000,000,000 upon the adoption by Congress of a balanced budget constitutional amendment and by an additional \$750,000,000,000 upon ratification by the States of that amendment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2011

Mr. BROOKS (for himself and Mr. BACHUS) 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 \$750,000,000,000 upon the adoption by Congress of a balanced budget constitutional amendment and by an additional \$750,000,000,000 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 “Restoring America’s
5 Dignity Act of 2011”.

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 as described in section 3, the statutory limit on the public
6 debt set forth in section 3101(b) of title 31, United States
7 Code, is increased by \$750,000,000,000.

8 (b) RATIFICATION.—Effective upon the ratification
9 by the States of a balanced budget constitutional amend-
10 ment as described in section 3, the statutory limit on the
11 public debt set forth in section 3101(b) of title 31, United
12 States Code, is increased by an additional
13 \$750,000,000,000.

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

16 The balanced budget constitutional amendment that
17 is referenced in section 2 shall include the following provi-
18 sions:

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
26 year deficits.

1 (2) The limitations imposed by the amendment
2 may be suspended by a majority of the membership
3 of both houses of Congress, by rollcall vote, for any
4 fiscal year in which the United States is in a war
5 declared by Congress pursuant to article I, section
6 8, or may be suspended by three-fourths of the
7 membership of Congress, by rollcall vote, for any
8 other fiscal year.

9 (3) Any bill that increases net gross tax re-
10 ceipts of the United States by levying a new tax or
11 revenue source, or increasing the rate of any existing
12 tax or revenue source, or by amending the terms of
13 one or more then-existing taxes or revenue sources,
14 shall not become law unless approved by three-fifths
15 of the membership of each House of Congress by a
16 rollcall vote.

17 (4) The Congress shall enforce and implement
18 the amendment by appropriate legislation, which
19 may rely on estimates of outlays and receipts.

20 (5) In any fiscal year in which Congress does
21 not suspend the amendment pursuant to its terms
22 and the President determines that total budgeted
23 outlays will exceed total receipts, the President shall
24 take such steps as the President in his discretion
25 deems are necessary to ensure total outlays for that

1 fiscal year do not exceed total receipts. Notwith-
2 standing the foregoing, the President may not order
3 any increase in tax or other revenue to enforce the
4 amendment. A President's intentional noncompliance
5 with this provision is an impeachable offense.

6 (6) Any Member of Congress and any Governor
7 or Attorney General of any State shall have standing
8 and a cause of action to seek judicial enforcement of
9 the amendment. No court of the United States or of
10 any State may order any increase in tax or other
11 revenue to enforce this article.

12 (7)(A) The amendment shall be effective after
13 ratification by the legislatures of three-fourths of the
14 several States and shall be phased in beginning with
15 the first fiscal year commencing six or more months
16 after ratification.

17 (B) Within three months after ratification, Con-
18 gress shall determine, or cause to be determined, the
19 total outlays, the total receipts, and the resulting
20 deficit of the United States for the fiscal year in
21 which ratification occurred.

22 (C) The first fiscal year deficit shall not exceed
23 eighty percent of the deficit for the fiscal year in
24 which ratification occurred.

1 (D) The second fiscal year deficit shall not ex-
2 ceed sixty percent of the deficit for the fiscal year
3 in which ratification occurred.

4 (E) The third fiscal year deficit shall not exceed
5 forty percent of the deficit for the fiscal year in
6 which ratification occurred.

7 (F) The fourth fiscal year deficit shall not ex-
8 ceed twenty percent of the deficit for the fiscal year
9 in which ratification occurred.

10 (G) The fifth phase-in fiscal year deficit, and all
11 years thereafter, shall have no deficit.

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