

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 512

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to reinstate the
“Gephardt rule”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Mr. WELCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to
reinstate the “Gephardt rule”.

1 *Resolved*, That the Rules of the House of Representa-
2 tives is amended by redesignating rule XXIX as rule XXX
3 and by inserting after rule XXVIII the following new rule:

4 “RULE XXIX

5 “STATUTORY LIMIT ON PUBLIC DEBT

6 “1. Upon adoption by Congress of a concurrent reso-
7 lution on the budget under section 301 or 304 of the Con-
8 gressional Budget Act of 1974 that sets forth, as the ap-
9 propriate level of the public debt for the period to which
10 the concurrent resolution relates, an amount that is dif-

1 ferent from the amount of the statutory limit on the public
 2 debt that otherwise would be in effect for that period, the
 3 Clerk shall prepare an engrossment of a joint resolution
 4 increasing or decreasing, as the case may be, the statutory
 5 limit on the public debt in the form prescribed in clause
 6 2. Upon engrossment of the joint resolution, the vote by
 7 which the concurrent resolution on the budget was finally
 8 agreed to in the House shall also be considered as a vote
 9 on passage of the joint resolution in the House, and the
 10 joint resolution shall be considered as passed by the House
 11 and duly certified and examined. The engrossed copy shall
 12 be signed by the Clerk and transmitted to the Senate for
 13 further legislative action.

14 “2. The matter after the resolving clause in a joint
 15 resolution described in clause 1 shall be as follows: ‘That
 16 subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States
 17 Code, is amended by striking out the dollar limitation con-
 18 tained in such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof
 19 “\$_____”.’, with the blank being filled with a dollar limi-
 20 tation equal to the appropriate level of the public debt set
 21 forth pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional
 22 Budget Act of 1974 in the relevant concurrent resolution
 23 described in clause 1. If an adopted concurrent resolution
 24 under clause 1 sets forth different appropriate levels of
 25 the public debt for separate periods, only one engrossed

1 joint resolution shall be prepared under clause 1; and the
2 blank referred to in the preceding sentence shall be filled
3 with the limitation that is to apply for each period.

4 “3.(a) The report of the Committee on the Budget
5 on a concurrent resolution described in clause 1 and the
6 joint explanatory statement of the managers on a con-
7 ference report to accompany such a concurrent resolution
8 each shall contain a clear statement of the effect the even-
9 tual enactment of a joint resolution engrossed under this
10 rule would have on the statutory limit on the public debt.

11 “(b) It shall not be in order for the House to consider
12 a concurrent resolution described in clause 1, or a con-
13 ference report thereon, unless the report of the Committee
14 on the Budget or the joint explanatory statement of the
15 managers complies with paragraph (a).

16 “4. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as limiting
17 or otherwise affecting—

18 “(a) the power of the House or the Senate to
19 consider and pass bills or joint resolutions, without
20 regard to the procedures under clause 1, that would
21 change the statutory limit on the public debt; or

22 “(b) the rights of Members, Delegates, the
23 Resident Commissioner, or committees with respect
24 to the introduction, consideration, and reporting of
25 such bills or joint resolutions.

1 “5. In this rule the term ‘statutory limit on the public
2 debt’ means the maximum face amount of obligations
3 issued under authority of chapter 31 of title 31, United
4 States Code, and obligations guaranteed as to principal
5 and interest by the United States (except such guaranteed
6 obligations as may be held by the Secretary of the Treas-
7 ury), as determined under section 3101(b) of such title
8 after the application of section 3101(a) of such title, that
9 may be outstanding at any one time.”.

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