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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a commission on national debt and fiscal reforms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. SPARTZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a commission on national debt and fiscal
reforms.

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 “Debt Commission Act
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEBT COMMISSION.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEBT COMMISSION.—No
8 later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
9 there shall be established in Congress a Debt Commission.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE.—The Debt Commis-
2 sion shall be composed of 16 members, of whom—

3 (1) four members shall be appointed by the ma-
4 jority leader of the Senate from among the current
5 members of the Senate;

6 (2) four members shall be appointed by the mi-
7 nority leader of the Senate from among the current
8 members of the Senate;

9 (3) four members shall be appointed by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives from
11 among the current members of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 (4) four members shall be appointed by the mi-
14 nority leader of the House of Representatives from
15 among the current members of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives.

17 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed to the
18 Debt Commission shall have significant depth of experi-
19 ence and expertise on fiscal issues.

20 (d) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Debt Commission
21 shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appoint-
22 ment under subsection (b).

23 (e) CO-CHAIRS.—From among the members ap-
24 pointed in subsection (b), the leadership of the Senate and
25 House of Representatives of the same political party as

1 the President shall designate 1 member, and the leader-
2 ship of the Senate and House of Representatives of the
3 opposite political party as the President, shall designate
4 1 member to serve as a co-chairs of the Debt Commission.

5 (f) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The co-chairs of the Debt
6 Commission, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of
7 the Debt Commission.

8 (g) STAFF COMPENSATION.—The co-chairs of the
9 Debt Commission may jointly appoint and fix the com-
10 pensation of staff of the Debt Commission as the co-chairs
11 determine necessary, in accordance with the guidelines,
12 rules, and requirements relating to employees of the Sen-
13 ate.

14 (h) FUNDING.—Funding for the Debt Commission
15 shall be derived in equal portions from—

16 (1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the
17 appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, sub-
18 ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and

19 (2) the applicable accounts of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (i) DUTIES.—The Debt Commission shall identify
22 policies to—

23 (1) achieve a sustainable ratio of the public
24 debt of the Federal Government to the gross domes-
25 tic product of the United States, in the midterm, in-

1 including changes to address growth, discretionary ap-
2 propriations, direct spending, and revenues;

3 (2) improve the long-term solvency of Federal
4 programs for which a Federal trust fund exists; and

5 (3) reform budget processes for enhancing the
6 fiscal oversight function of Congress.

7 (j) POWERS OF DEBT COMMISSION.—

8 (1) HEARINGS.—

9 (A) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Debt Com-
10 mission shall hold public hearings and require
11 attendance of witnesses and production of
12 books, papers, and documents as the Debt
13 Commission considers advisable.

14 (B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30
15 days after the date described in subsection (a),
16 the Debt Commission shall hold the first meet-
17 ing.

18 (C) AGENDA.—For each meeting of the
19 Debt Commission, the co-chairs of the Debt
20 Commission shall provide an agenda to the
21 members of the Debt Commission not later
22 than 48 hours before the meeting.

23 (D) HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-
24 chairs of the Debt Commission shall make a
25 public announcement of the date, place, time,

1 and subject matter of any hearing to be con-
2 ducted under this subsection not later than 7
3 days before the date of the hearing, unless the
4 co-chairs determine that there is good cause to
5 begin such hearing on an earlier date.

6 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written re-
7 quest of the co-chairs of the Debt Commission, the
8 head of a Federal agency shall provide technical as-
9 sistance to the Debt Commission in a timely manner
10 in order for the Debt Commission to carry out the
11 duties of the Debt Commission.

12 (3) TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS.—The
13 co-chairs may establish task forces and working
14 groups to carry out the duties of the Debt Commis-
15 sion, which may include participation by outside ex-
16 perts.

17 (4) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTI-
18 MATES.—The Director of the Congressional Budget
19 Office shall, with respect to the legislative language
20 of the Debt Commission under subsection (l)(1)(B),
21 provide to the Debt Commission—

22 (A) estimates of the legislative language in
23 accordance with sections 308(a) and 201(f) of
24 the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2
25 U.S.C. 639(a) and 8 601(f)); and

1 (B) information on the budgetary effect of
2 the legislative language on the long-term fiscal
3 outlook.

4 (k) CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS.—

5 (1) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES.—Not
6 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of
7 this Act, each committee of the Senate and the
8 House of Representatives may transmit to the Debt
9 Commission any recommendations of the committee
10 relating to changes in law to achieve the changes de-
11 scribed in subsection (i).

12 (2) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The
13 co-chairs shall consult with the chairman and rank-
14 ing minority member of each relevant committee of
15 the Senate and of the House of Representatives re-
16 garding the contents of the final report and legisla-
17 tive language under subsection (l).

18 (3) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSULTATION.—The
19 consultation required under paragraph (2) shall pro-
20 vide the opportunity for the chairman and ranking
21 member of each relevant committee of the Senate or
22 of the House of Representatives to provide—

23 (A) recommendations for alternative means
24 of addressing the recommendations contained in
25 the Debt Commission report; and

1 (B) recommendations regarding which rec-
2 ommendations contained in the Debt Commis-
3 sion report should not be addressed in the pro-
4 posed report.

5 (4) SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS.—The Chair and
6 Ranking Member of each relevant committee can
7 submit supplemental views to include in the final re-
8 port under subsection (l).

9 (l) FINAL REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGIS-
10 LATIVE LANGUAGE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—On November 15, 2024, or
12 thereafter, but not later than 30 days before the
13 date specified in section 401(a) of division D of the
14 Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–
15 5), the Debt Commission shall meet to consider, and
16 vote on—

17 (A) a final report that contains a detailed
18 statement of the findings, conclusions, and rec-
19 ommendations required under subsection (i);
20 and

21 (B) legislative language to carry out the
22 recommendations of the Debt Commission in
23 the report described in subparagraph (A), which
24 shall include a statement of the economic and

1 budgetary effects of the recommendations by
2 the Congressional Budget Office.

3 (2) APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE
4 LANGUAGE.—A final report and legislative language
5 of the Debt Commission under paragraph (1) shall
6 require a separate vote and the approval of a major-
7 ity of the members of the Debt Commission, pro-
8 vided that such majority shall be required to include
9 not less than 4 members of the Debt Commission
10 appointed by members of the Republican Party and
11 4 members appointed by members of the Democratic
12 Party.

13 (3) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—A member of the
14 Debt Commission who gives notice of an intention to
15 file supplemental, minority, or additional views at
16 the time of the final Debt Commission vote on the
17 approval of the report and legislative language shall
18 be entitled to 3 days to file those views in writing
19 with the staff director of the Debt Commission to in-
20 clude in the final report.

21 (4) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO
22 BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or dis-
23 approval of a report and legislative language under
24 paragraph (1) by the Debt Commission, the Debt
25 Commission shall promptly, and not more than 24

1 hours after the approval or disapproval or, if timely
2 notice is given under paragraph (3), not more than
3 24 hours after additional views are filed under such
4 paragraph (3), make the report, the legislative lan-
5 guage, and a record of the vote on the report and
6 legislative language available to the public.

7 (5) SUBMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE
8 LANGUAGE.—If a report or legislative language are
9 approved by the Debt Commission under paragraph
10 (1), not later than 3 days after the date on which
11 the report or legislative language are made available
12 to the public under paragraph (4), the Debt Com-
13 mission shall submit the report or legislative lan-
14 guage to the President, the Vice President, the
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
16 majority and minority leaders of each House of Con-
17 gress.

18 (m) TERMINATION.—The Debt Commission shall ter-
19minate on the date that is 30 days after the date the Debt
20 Commission submits the final report under subsection (l)
21 or December 31, 2024, whichever is earlier.

22 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF DEBT COMMISSION**
23 **BILLS.**

24 (a) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Only a Debt Commission bill
2 shall be entitled to expedited consideration under
3 this section.

4 (2) DEBT COMMISSION BILL DEFINED.—In this
5 section, the term “Debt Commission bill” means a
6 bill consisting solely of legislative language that the
7 Debt Commission approves and submits under sec-
8 tion 2(1)(5).

9 (b) CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
10 ATIVES.—

11 (1) INTRODUCTION.—If the Debt Commission
12 approves and submits legislative language under
13 paragraphs (1) and (5), respectively, of section 2(1),
14 the Debt Commission bill consisting solely of that
15 legislative language shall be introduced in the House
16 of Representatives (by request)—

17 (A) by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives, or by a Member of the House
19 of Representatives designated by the majority
20 leader of the House of Representatives, on the
21 third legislative day after the date the Debt
22 Commission approves and submits such legisla-
23 tive language; or

24 (B) if the Debt Commission bill is not in-
25 troduced under subparagraph (A), by any Mem-

1 ber of the House of Representatives on any leg-
2 islative day beginning on the legislative day
3 after the legislative day described in subpara-
4 graph (A).

5 (2) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any com-
6 mittee of the House of Representatives to which a
7 Debt Commission bill is referred shall report the
8 Debt Commission bill to the House of Representa-
9 tives without amendment not later than 5 legislative
10 days after the date on which the Debt Commission
11 bill was so referred. If any committee of the House
12 of Representatives to which a Debt Commission bill
13 is referred fails to report the Debt Commission bill
14 within that period, that committee shall be auto-
15 matically discharged from consideration of the Debt
16 Commission bill, and the Debt Commission bill shall
17 be placed on the appropriate calendar.

18 (3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
19 the last committee authorized to consider a Debt
20 Commission bill reports it to the House of Rep-
21 resentatives or has been discharged from its consid-
22 eration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to
23 consider the Debt Commission bill in the House of
24 Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order
25 after the House of Representatives has disposed of

1 a motion to proceed with respect to the Debt Com-
2 mission bill. The previous question shall be consid-
3 ered as ordered on the motion to its adoption with-
4 out intervening motion.

5 (4) CONSIDERATION.—The Debt Commission
6 bill shall be considered as read. All points of order
7 against the Debt Commission bill and against its
8 consideration are waived. The previous question
9 shall be considered as ordered on the Debt Commis-
10 sion bill to its passage without intervening motion
11 except 2 hours of debate equally divided and con-
12 trolled by the proponent and an opponent.

13 (5) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage
14 of the Dent Commission bill shall occur pursuant to
15 the constraints under clause 8 of rule XX of the
16 Rules of the House of Representatives.

17 (c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

18 (1) INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—If the
19 Debt Commission approves and submits legislative
20 language under paragraphs (1) and (5), respectively,
21 of section 2(l)), a Debt Commission bill consisting
22 solely of that legislative language may be introduced
23 in the Senate (by request)—

24 (A) by the majority leader of the Senate,
25 or by a Member of the Senate designated by the

1 majority leader of the Senate, on the next day
2 on which the Senate is in session; or

3 (B) if the Debt Commission bill is not in-
4 troduced under subparagraph (A), by any Mem-
5 ber of the Senate on any day on which the Sen-
6 ate is in session beginning on the day after the
7 day described in subparagraph (A).

8 (2) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A Debt
9 Commission bill introduced in the Senate under
10 paragraph (1) shall be jointly referred to the com-
11 mittee or committees of jurisdiction, which commit-
12 tees shall report the Debt Commission bill without
13 any revision and with a favorable recommendation,
14 an unfavorable recommendation, or without rec-
15 ommendation, not later than 5 session days after the
16 date on which the Debt Commission bill was so re-
17 ferred. If any committee to which a Debt Commis-
18 sion bill is referred fails to report the Debt Commis-
19 sion bill within that period, that committee shall be
20 automatically discharged from consideration of the
21 Debt Commission bill, and the Debt Commission bill
22 shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

23 (3) PROCEEDING.—Notwithstanding rule XXII
24 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order,
25 not later than 2 days of session after the date on

1 which a Debt Commission bill is reported or dis-
2 charged from all committees to which the Debt Com-
3 mission bill was referred, for the majority leader of
4 the Senate or the designee of the majority leader to
5 move to proceed to the consideration of the Debt
6 Commission bill. It shall also be in order for any
7 Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the
8 consideration of the Debt Commission bill at any
9 time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A
10 motion to proceed is in order even though a previous
11 motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All
12 points of order against the motion to proceed to the
13 Debt Commission bill are waived. The motion to
14 proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject
15 to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the
16 vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed
17 to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to
18 the consideration of the Debt Commission bill is
19 agreed to, the Debt Commission bill shall remain the
20 unfinished business until disposed of. All points of
21 order against a Debt Commission bill and against
22 consideration of the Debt Commission bill are
23 waived.

24 (4) NO AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to a
25 Debt Commission bill, or a motion to postpone, or

1 a motion to proceed to the consideration of other
2 business, or a motion to recommit the Debt Commis-
3 sion bill, is not in order.

4 (5) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—
5 Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to
6 the application of the rules of the Senate, as the
7 case may be, to the procedure relating to a Debt
8 Commission bill shall be decided without debate.

9 (d) AMENDMENT.—A Debt Commission bill shall not
10 be subject to amendment in either the Senate or the
11 House of Representatives.

12 (e) CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing a Debt
14 Commission bill, a House receives from the other
15 House a Debt Commission bill consisting of legisla-
16 tive language approved by the same Debt Commis-
17 sion as the Debt Commission bill in the receiving
18 House—

19 (A) the Debt Commission bill of the other
20 House shall not be referred to a committee; and

21 (B) the procedure in the receiving House
22 shall be the same as if no Debt Commission bill
23 had been received from the other House until
24 the vote on passage, when the Debt Commission
25 bill received from the other House shall sup-

1 plant the Debt Commission bill of the receiving
2 House.

3 (2) REVENUE MEASURES.—This subsection
4 shall not apply to the House of Representatives if a
5 Debt Commission bill received from the Senate is a
6 revenue measure.

7 (f) RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER
8 HOUSE.—

9 (1) TREATMENT OF DEBT COMMISSION BILL OF
10 OTHER HOUSE.—If a Debt Commission bill is not
11 introduced in the Senate or the Senate fails to con-
12 sider a Debt Commission bill under this section, the
13 Debt Commission bill of the House of Representa-
14 tives consisting of legislative language approved by
15 the same Debt Commission as the Debt Commission
16 bill in the Senate shall be entitled to expedited floor
17 procedures under this section.

18 (2) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN
19 THE SENATE.—If, following passage of a Debt Com-
20 mission bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives
21 from the House of Representatives a Debt Commis-
22 sion bill approved by the same Debt Commission and
23 consisting of the same legislative language as the
24 Senate-passed Debt Commission bill, the House-
25 passed Debt Commission bill shall not be debatable.

1 The vote on passage of the Debt Commission bill in
2 the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on pas-
3 sage of the Debt Commission bill received from the
4 House of Representatives.

5 (3) VETOES.—If the President vetoes a Debt
6 Commission bill, consideration of a veto message in
7 the Senate under this paragraph shall be 10 hours
8 equally divided between the majority and minority
9 leaders of the Senate or the designees of the major-
10 ity and minority leaders of the Senate.

11 **SEC. 4. RULEMAKING.**

12 The provisions of this Act are enacted by Congress—

13 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
14 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-
15 spectively, and, as such, the provisions—

16 (A) shall be considered as part of the rules
17 of each House, respectively, or of that House to
18 which they specifically apply; and

19 (B) shall supersede other rules only to the
20 extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

21 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
22 right of either House to change such rules (so far
23 as relating to such House) at any time, in the same
24 manner, and to the same extent as in the case of
25 any other rule of such House.