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Votes on Measures to Adjust the Statutory Debt Limit, 1978 to Present

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Summary

Almost all borrowing by the federal government is conducted by the Treasury Department, within the restrictions established by a single, statutory limit (ceiling) on the total amount of debt that may be outstanding at any time. By law, the Treasury cannot exceed federal debt limits, so the Treasury periodically has had to ask Congress to enact new debt limits so it can fulfill its financial commitments. Since 1978, Congress has passed, and the President has signed into law, 56 measures adjusting the statutory debt limit either as stand-alone legislation or as part of legislation dealing with other matters.

This report provides roll call vote data identified by the Congressional Research Service for measures to adjust the statutory debt limit. This report will be updated as events warrant.

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Introduction

Almost all borrowing by the federal government is conducted by the Treasury Department, within the restrictions established by a single, statutory limit (ceiling) on the total amount of debt that may be outstanding at any time. By law, the Treasury cannot exceed federal debt limits, so the Treasury periodically has had to ask Congress to enact new debt limits so it can fulfill its financial commitments. Since 1978, Congress has passed, and the President has signed into law, 56 measures adjusting the statutory debt limit either as stand-alone legislation or as part of legislation dealing with other matters.

In the 113th Congress, three “debt-limit suspension” measures were enacted. Suspension measures allow the federal government to engage in budgetary activities that incur additional debt without the risk of default while the debt limit is suspended to allow the government to continue timely payment of its obligations. P.L. 113-3 suspended the debt limit and provided the Treasury with the ability to borrow to finance obligations through May 18, 2013.¹ On October 17, 2013, as part of P.L. 113-46, a measure providing continuing appropriations for FY2014, the debt limit was suspended again until February 7, 2014. P.L. 113-83 suspended the debt limit through March 15, 2015.²

Early in the 114th Congress, after the previous debt limit suspension expired on March 15, 2015, the debt limit was reset on March 16, 2015, at \$18.113 billion, and extraordinary measures to meet federal fiscal obligations were initiated by the Treasury.³ H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, was enacted on November 2, 2015, as P.L. 114-74. In addition to amending budget enforcement provisions in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25), the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 also suspended the federal debt limit through March 15, 2017.

After the start of the 115th Congress, the previously enacted debt-limit suspension period expired on March 15, 2017. The Treasury Department reset the debt limit at \$19.809 billion on March 16, 2017.⁴ In a letter to congressional leaders on March 8, 2017, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin indicated that starting on March 16, 2017, the Treasury Department would employ extraordinary measures to temporarily meet financial obligations.⁵

¹ CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin contains information on reaching the federal debt limit on December 31, 2012, and measures taken by the Treasury Department that were used to meet federal payments temporarily between December 31, 2012, and the enactment of P.L. 113-3 on February 4, 2013. Additional information is also available in CRS Report R43389, *The Debt Limit Since 2011*, by D. Andrew Austin.

² See also CRS Report R43389, *The Debt Limit Since 2011*, by D. Andrew Austin and CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin.

³ CRS Report R43389, *The Debt Limit Since 2011*, by D. Andrew Austin, contains more detailed descriptions of congressionally enacted debt limit suspensions and Treasury Department actions in 2015. These actions include “debt issuance suspension” and the use of extraordinary measures allowing the federal government to meet its financial obligations through a later date in 2015.

⁴ For more details on the debt limit and BCA of 2011 adjustments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, see CRS Insight IN10389, *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015: Adjustments to the Budget Control Act of 2011*, by Grant A. Driessen.

⁵ The text of Secretary Mnuchin’s letter is available on the Department of Treasury website at https://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/Documents/DL_SLGS_20170308_Ryan.pdf. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that those measures could meet federal obligations until sometime in the fall of 2017. See CBO, *The Federal Statutory Limit, March 2017*, March 7, 2017, available at <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/52465-federaldebtlimit.pdf>. For more information on recent history of the federal debt limit see CRS Report R43389, *The Debt Limit Since 2011*, by D. Andrew Austin.

This report provides tallies of votes on final passage for each enacted measure that adjusted the statutory debt limit from 1978 to present. The process for congressional consideration of bills can be complex. Attempting to interpret the intent of votes prior to the final vote on passage of a measure may yield various, and sometimes conflicting, interpretations. For the sake of clarity, the report only provides vote information on the final passage of each measure.⁶

Debt Limit Votes: 1978 to Present

As noted above, this report identifies information on debt limit legislation and votes on final passage in the House and Senate. Other data elements identified in the tables below include bill number; whether final passage involved a roll call vote, voice vote, or passage by unanimous consent; dates of final passage and vote tally information; dates of enactment and public law number for the enacted law; and brief background information on whether the measure was considered a stand-alone measure (i.e., dealing entirely with just a change to the federal debt limit and not including provisions on other matters).

Table 1 provides information on all enacted measures to increase or otherwise change the federal debt limit from 1978 to 2015, including data on the changes to the federal debt limit set at the time of enactment. The bill number and public law columns of the table provide links to LIS bill summary and status information for each measure. Roll call votes on final enactment can be extracted through the major actions display for each measure within LIS back to 1993.⁷ Also, **Table 1** contains cross-references to the notes columns in **Table 2** and **Table 3**. The notes columns in those tables provide additional details on how each measure was considered.

Table 2 identifies stand-alone measures from the period. **Table 3** identifies bills considered as other than stand-alone measures⁸ and provides brief background information on the nature of each measure and by what means it was considered.

Table 1. Roll Call Votes on Enacted Measures to Adjust the Federal Debt Limit
(1978 to 2015)

| Year | Bill Number | Final House & Senate Vote Tally & Date of Votes | | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Debt Limit Amount (\$ in billions) | Temporary Provisions Expiration Date |
|------|-------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | House | Senate | | | |
| 1978 | H.R. 11518 | 233-172 3/21/1978 | Voice Vote 3/22/1978 | P.L. 95-252 3/27/1978 | \$752.0 | 8/01/1978 |
| | H.R. 13385 | 205-202 7/19/1978 | 62-31 8/02/1978 | P.L. 95-333 8/03/1978 | \$798 | 3/31/1979 |

⁶ More detailed information on methods employed by Congress to adjust the statutory debt limit appear in CRS Report RS21519, *Legislative Procedures for Adjusting the Public Debt Limit: A Brief Overview*, by Bill Heniff Jr.

⁷ Complete House and Senate roll call vote information is available in LIS back to 1993. Bill number and public law links in **Table 1** connect to bill summary and status information for all measures back to 1978. For the measures listed from 1993 to the present, Member roll call votes can be extracted from the LIS bill summary and status display by clicking on major actions and online links provided to the House and Senate roll call information.

⁸ **Table 3** provides brief background information on whether measures were considered as other than stand-alone bills, either containing a change to the debt limit as part of a measure dealing with other matters (including omnibus or consolidated measures or part of continuing resolutions) or pursuant to House rules or budget resolution and budget reconciliation activities.

| Year | Bill Number | Final House & Senate Vote Tally & Date of Votes | | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Debt Limit Amount (\$ in billions) | Temporary Provisions Expiration Date |
|------|--------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | House | Senate | | | |
| 1979 | H.R. 2534 | 209-165 (H.Res. 183, 4/2/1979) (See notes column in Table 3) | 62-33 3/27/1979 | P.L. 96-5 4/02/1979 | \$830 | 9/30/1979 |
| | H.R. 5369 | 219-198 9/26/1979 | 49-29 9/28/1979 | P.L. 96-78 9/29/1979 | \$879 | 5/31/1980 |
| 1980 | H.R. 7471 | Voice Vote 5/30/1980 | 47-10 5/30/1980 | P.L. 96-256 5/30/1980 | same | 6/5/1980 |
| | H.R. 7428 | 335-34 6/05/1980 | 68-10 6/06/1980 | P.L. 96-264 6/06/1980 | same | 6/30/1980 |
| | H.J.Res. 569 | 6/13/1980 (See notes column in Table 2) | 54-39 6/28/1980 | P.L. 96-286 6/28/1980 | \$925 | 2/28/1981 |
| | H.J.Res. 570 | 6/13/1980 (See notes column in Table 2) | Voice Vote 12/12/1981 | P.L. 96-556 12/19/1980 | \$935.1 | None |
| 1981 | H.R. 1553 | 305-104 2/05/1981 | 73-18 2/06/1981 | P.L. 97-2 2/07/1981 | \$985 | 9/30/1981 |
| | H.J.Res. 266 | 5/21/1981 (See notes column in Table 2) | Voice Vote 9/29/1981 | P.L. 97-48 9/30/1981 | \$999.8 | 9/30/1981 |
| | H.J.Res. 265 | 5/21/1981 (See notes column in Table 2) | 64-34 09/29/1981 | P.L. 97-49 9/30/1981 | \$1,079.8 | 9/28/1981 |
| 1982 | H.J.Res. 519 | 6/23/1982 (See notes column in Table 2) | 49-41 6/23/1982 | P.L. 97-204 6/28/1982 | \$1,143.1 | 9/30/1982 |
| | H.J.Res. 520 | 6/23/1982 (See notes column in Table 2) | 50-41 9/23/1982 | P.L. 97-270 9/30/1982 | \$1,290.2 | 9/30/1983 |
| 1983 | H.R. 2990 | Voice Vote 5/18/1983 | 51-41 5/25/1983 | P.L. 98-34 5/26/1983 | \$1,389 | None |
| | H.J.Res. 308 | 214-186 11/18/1983 | Voice Vote 11/17/1983 | P.L. 98-161 11/21/1983 | \$1,490 | None |
| 1984 | H.R. 5692 | 211-198 5/24/1984 | Voice Vote 5/24/1984 | P.L. 98-302 5/25/1984 | \$1,520 | None |
| | H.R. 5953 | 208-202 6/29/1984 | Voice Vote 6/29/1984 | P.L. 98-342 7/06/1984 | \$1,573 | None |

| Year | Bill Number | Final House & Senate Vote Tally & Date of Votes | | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Debt Limit Amount (\$ in billions) | Temporary Provisions Expiration Date |
|------|--------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | House | Senate | | | |
| | H.J.Res. 654 | Unanimous Consent 10/01/1984 | 37-30 10/12/1984 | P.L. 98-475 10/13/1984 | \$1,823.8 | None |
| 1985 | H.R. 3721 | 300-121 11/13/1985 | Voice Vote 11/13/1985 | P.L. 99-155 11/14/1985 | \$1,903.8 | 12/06/1985 |
| | H.J.Res. 372 | 271-154 12/11/1985 | 61-31 12/11/1985 | P.L. 99-177 12/12/1985 | \$2,078.7 | None |
| 1986 | H.R. 5395 | 216-199 8/14/1986 | 36-35 8/15/1986 | P.L. 99-384 8/21/1986 | \$2,111 | None |
| | H.R. 5300 | 305-70 10/17/1986 | 61-25 10/17/1986 | P.L. 99-509 10/21/1986 | \$2,300 | 5/15/1987 |
| 1987 | H.R. 2360 | 296-124 5/13/1987 | 58-36 5/14/1987 | P.L. 100-40 5/15/1987 | \$2,320 | 7/17/1987 |
| | H.R. 3022 | 263-155 7/29/1987 | Voice Vote 7/29/1987 | P.L. 100-80 7/30/1987 | same | 8/06/1987 |
| | H.R. 3190 | Voice Vote 8/07/1987 | 51-39 8/07/1987 | P.L. 100-84 8/10/1987 | \$2,352 | 9/23/1987 |
| | H.J.Res. 324 | 230-176 9/22/1987 | 64-34 9/23/1987 | P.L. 100-119 9/29/1987 | \$2,800 | None |
| 1989 | H.R. 3024 | 231-185 8/01/1989 | Voice Vote 8/04/1989 | P.L. 101-72 8/07/1989 | \$2,870 | 10/31/1989 |
| | H.J.Res. 280 | 11/07/1989 269-99 | Voice Vote 11/07/1989 | P.L. 101-140 11/08/1989 | \$3,122.7 | None |
| 1990 | H.R. 5350 | 247-172 8/03/1990 | Voice Vote 8/03/1990 | P.L. 101-350 8/09/1990 | \$3,195 | 10/02/1990 |
| | H.R. 5755 | Voice Vote 9/30/1990 | Unanimous Consent 09/30/1990 | P.L. 101-405 10/02/1990 | same | 10/06/1990 |
| | H.J.Res. 666 | 362-3 10/09/1990 | Voice Vote 10/08/1990 | P.L. 101-412 10/09/1990 | same | 10/09/1990 |
| | H.J.Res. 677 | 379-37 10/18/1990 | Voice Vote 10/19/1990 | P.L. 101-444 10/19/1990 | same | 10/24/1990 |
| | H.J.Res. 681 | 380-45 10/24/1990 | Unanimous Consent 10/24/1990 | P.L. 101-461 10/25/1990 | same | 10/27/1990 |
| | H.J.Res. 687 | 283-49 10/27/1990 | Voice Vote 10/27/1990 | P.L. 101-467 10/28/1990 | \$3,230 | 11/05/1990 |
| | H.R. 5835 | 228-200 10/26/1990 | 54-45 10/27/1990 | P.L. 101-508 11/05/1990 | \$4,145 | None |
| 1993 | H.R. 1430 | 237-177 4/02/1993 | Unanimous Consent 4/05/1993 | P.L. 103-12 4/06/1993 | \$4,370 | 09/30/1993 |

| Year | Bill Number | Final House & Senate Vote Tally & Date of Votes | | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Debt Limit Amount (\$ in billions) | Temporary Provisions Expiration Date |
|------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | House | Senate | | | |
| 1996 | H.R. 2264 | 218-216 8/05/1993 | 51-50 8/06/1993 | P.L. 103-66 8/10/1993 | \$4,900 | None |
| | H.R. 2924 | 396-0 2/01/1996 | Unanimous Consent 2/01/1996 | P.L. 104-103 02/08/1996 | (See notes column in Table 3) | 03/15/1990 |
| | H.R. 3021 | 362-51 3/07/1996 | Voice Vote 3/07/1996 | P.L. 104-115 3/12/1996 | (See notes column in Table 3) | 3/30/1990 |
| | H.R. 3136 | 328-91 3/28/1996 | Unanimous Consent 3/28/1996 | P.L. 104-121 3/29/1996 | \$5,500 | None |
| 1997 | H.R. 2015 | 346-85 07/30/1997 | 85-15 7/31/1997 | P.L. 105-33 8/05/1997 | \$5,950 | None |
| 2002 | S. 2578 | 215-214-1 6/27/2002 | 68-29 6/11/2002 | P.L. 107-199 6/28/2002 | \$6,400 | None |
| 2003 | H.J.Res. 51 | 216-211 H.Con.Res. 95 04/11/2003 (See notes column Table 2) | 53-44 5/23/2003 | P.L. 108-24 5/27/2003 | \$7,384 | None |
| 2004 | S. 2986 | 208-204 11/18/2004 | 52-44 11/17/2004 | P.L. 108-415 11/19/2004 | \$8,184 | None |
| 2005 | H.J.Res. 47 | 4/28/2005 (See notes column in Table 2) | 52-48 3/16/2005 | P.L. 109-182 3/20/2006 | \$8,965 | None |
| 2007 | H.J.Res. 43 | 5/17/2007 (See notes column in Table 2) | 53-42 9/27/2007 | P.L. 110-91 9/29/2007 | \$9,815 | None |
| 2008 | H.R. 3221 | 272-152 7/23/2008 | 72-13 7/26/2008 | P.L. 110-289 7/30/2008 | \$10,615 | None |
| | H.R. 1424 | 263-171 10/03/2008 | 74-25 10/1/2008 | P.L. 110-343 10/3/2008 | \$11,315 | None |
| 2009 | H.R. 1 | 246-183-1 2/13/2009 | 60-38 2/13/2009 | P.L. 111-5 2/17/2009 | \$12,104 | None |
| | H.R. 4314 | 218-214 12/16/2009 | 60-39 12/24/2009 | P.L. 111-123 12/28/2009 | \$12,394 | None |
| 2010 | H.J.Res. 45 | 233-187 2/04/2010 | 60-39 1/28/2010 | P.L. 111-139 2/12/2010 | \$14,294 | None |
| 2011 | S. 365 | 269-161 8/01/2011 | 74-26 8/02/2011 | P.L. 112-25 ^a 8/02/2011 | \$16,394 | None |

| Year | Bill Number | Final House & Senate Vote Tally & Date of Votes | | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Debt Limit Amount (\$ in billions) | Temporary Provisions Expiration Date |
|------|-------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | House | Senate | | | |
| 2013 | H.R. 325 | 285-144 01/23/2013 | 64-34 1/31/2013 | P.L. 113-3 02/4/2013 | (See notes column in Table 3) | 5/18/2013 |
| 2013 | H.R. 2775 | 285-144 10/16/2013 | 81-18 10/16/2013 | P.L. 113-46 10/17/2013 | (See notes column in Table 3) | 2/07/2014 |
| 2014 | S. 540 | 221-201 2/11/2014 | 55-43 2/12/2014 | P.L. 113-83 2/15/2014 | (See notes column in Table 2) | 3/15/2015 |
| 2015 | H.R. 1314 | 266-167 10/29/2015 | 65-35 10/30/2015 | P.L. 114-74 - 11/02/2015 | (See notes column in Table 3) | 3/15/2017 |

Sources: The LIS available at <http://www.congress.gov>, Annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* volumes, CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin, and out-of-print CRS Report 97-297, *Debt Limit Increases, 1978 to 1996: Fact Sheet and Uses of the Debt Limit for Other Legislation*. Enacted levels of Statutory Debt Limit were obtained from the FY2012 Budget *Historical Tables* volume, Table 7.3.

Notes: For more information on temporary and permanent increases, see Table 7.3 of the FY2012 Budget *Historical Tables*. Measures in **Table 1** are organized by year of initial consideration of each measure.

- a. P.L. 112-25, the Budget Control Act (BCA) included provisions allowing the debt limit to rise in three stages—up to \$2.4 trillion—following certification by the President that the debt balance was within \$100 billion of the current limit. The debt limit as of January 28, 2012, is \$16.4 trillion. This \$16.4 trillion figure includes incremental increases of \$400 billion (August 2, 2011), \$500 billion (September 22, 2011), and \$1.2 trillion (January 28, 2012). More information on stipulations for debt-limit increases included within P.L. 112-25 appears in CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin .

Table 2. Stand-Alone Debt Limit Measures
(1978-2014)

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Descriptive Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1978 | H.R. 11518 | P.L. 95-252 3/27/1978 | None |
| | H.R. 13385 | P.L. 95-333 8/03/1978 | None |
| 1980 | H.R. 7471 | P.L. 96-256 6/06/1980 | None |
| | H.J.Res. 569 | P.L. 96-286 6/28/1980 | On June 13, 1980, the day after Congress completed action on the FY1981 Budget Resolution, H.Con.Res. 307, its projected debt increase was incorporated into H.J.Res. 569, which was then deemed to have been passed by the House. The measure was enacted as P.L. 96-286 and included a temporary extension of the debt limit from June 30, 1980, to February 28, 1981. |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Descriptive Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | H.J.Res. 570 | P.L. 96-556 12/19/1980 | A debt limit increase was incorporated in H.Con.Res. 307, the FY1981 Budget Resolution passed by the House on June 12, 1980, by a vote of 205-195. H.J.Res. 570 was enacted as P.L. 96-556. The enacted measure included a temporary extension of the debt limit from February 28, 1981, to September 30, 1981. |
| 1981 | H.R. 1553 | P.L. 97-2 2/07/1981 | None |
| | H.J.Res. 266 | P.L. 97-48 9/30/1981 | H.J.Res. 266 was engrossed and deemed passed by the House on May 21, 1981. After passing the Senate, H.J.Res. 266 was enacted as P.L. 97-48 on September 30, 1981. The measure raised the temporary debt limit without altering its September 30, 1981, expiration date. |
| | H.J.Res. 265 | P.L. 97-49 9/30/1981 | A debt limit figure from H.Con.Res. 307, the FY1981 Budget Resolution, was incorporated into H.J.Res. 265 without a vote. P.L. 97-49 as enacted extended the temporary limit from September 30, 1981, to September 30, 1982. |
| 1982 | H.J.Res. 519 | P.L. 97-204 6/28/1982 | S.Con.Res. 92, the FY1983 Budget Resolution, automatically incorporated respective debt limit increases in H.J.Res. 519 and H.J.Res. 520. Both measures were engrossed by the House on June 23, 1982. H.J.Res. 520 also extended the temporary debt limit from September 30, 1982, to September 30, 1983. |
| | H.J.Res. 520 | P.L. 97-270 9/30/1982 | See notes above on H.J.Res. 519. |
| 1983 | H.J.Res. 308 | P.L. 98-161 11/21/1983 | None |
| 1984 | H.R. 5953 | P.L. 98-342 7/6/1984 | None |
| | H.J.Res. 654 | P.L. 98-475 10/13/1984 | None |
| 1986 | H.R. 5395 | P.L. 99-384 8/21/1986 | None |
| 1987 | H.R. 2360 | P.L. 100-40 5/15/1987 | None |
| | H.R. 3022 | P.L. 100-80 7/30/1987 | None |
| | H.R. 3190 | P.L. 100-84 8/10/1987 | None |
| 1990 | H.R. 5350 | P.L. 101-350 8/09/1990 | None |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Descriptive Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | H.R. 5755 | P.L. 101-405 10/02/1990 | None |
| 1993 | H.R. 1430 | P.L. 103-12 4/06/1993 | None |
| 2002 | S. 2578 | P.L. 107-199 6/28/2002 | The House roll call votes on P.L. 107-199 included one Member voting "present." |
| 2003 | H.J.Res. 51 | P.L. 108-24 5/27/2003 | On April 11, 2003, pursuant to Rule XXVII, H.J.Res. 51 was deemed to have passed the House as a result of the adoption by the House and the Senate of the conference report for H.Con.Res. 95, the FY2004 Budget Resolution. |
| 2004 | S. 2986 | P.L. 108-415 11/19/2004 | None |
| 2006 | H.J.Res. 47 | P.L. 109-182 3/20/2006 | H.J.Res. 47 (P.L. 109-182) was passed pursuant to Rule XXVII and H.Con.Res. 95, the FY2006 Budget Resolution. |
| 2007 | H.J.Res. 43 | P.L. 110-91 9/29/2007 | H.J.Res. 43 (P.L. 110-91) was passed by the House pursuant to provisions in S.Con.Res. 21, the FY2008 Budget Resolution. |
| 2009 | H.R. 4314 | P.L. 111-123 12/28/2009 | None |
| 2014 | S. 540 | P.L. 113-83 2/15/2014 | P.L. 113-83, <i>the Temporary Debt Limit Extension Act</i> , suspended the federal debt limit through March 15, 2015. |

Source: The LIS, available at <http://www.congress.gov>, Annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* volumes, CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin, and out-of-print CRS Report 97-297, *Debt Limit Increases, 1978 to 1996: Fact Sheet and Uses of the Debt Limit for Other Legislation*.

Notes: Vote tally, enacted debt limit amounts, and other data are available in **Table I**. Measures in **Table 2** are organized by year of enactment.

Table 3. Other Than Stand-Alone Debt Limit Measures
(1979-2013)

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1979 | H.R. 2534 | P.L. 96-5 4/02/1979 | Change to debt limit included as provision within measure on other matters | P.L. 96-5 included an increase in savings bonds yields and required Congress and the President to present budgets that would be in balance for FY1981 and FY1982. See also H.Res. 183, a resolution concurring in amendments to H.R. 2534 as passed by the Senate. H.Res. 183 was passed by the House on April 2, 1979, by a vote of 209-165. House Roll Vote #133. |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | H.R. 5369 | P.L. 96-78 9/29/1979 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | P.L. 96-78 included an increase in the amount of long-term bonds that could be outstanding and established House Rule 49 making the increase in the debt limit part of the budget process (in the House). |
| 1980 | H.R. 7428 | P.L. 96-264 6/06/1980 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | P.L. 96-264 included a repeal of the presidentially imposed oil import fee under Section 232(b) of the <i>Trade Expansion Act of 1962</i> , 19 U.S.C. 18629(b). This legislation was passed over a presidential veto. |
| 1983 | H.R. 2990 | P.L. 98-34 5/26/1983 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | P.L. 98-34 included making the whole debt limit permanent and increasing the amount of long-term bonds that could be issued. |
| 1984 | H.R. 5692 | P.L. 98-302 5/25/1984 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | P.L. 98-302 included an increase in the amount of long-term bonds that could be issued and provided some miscellaneous administrative authority to the Secretary of the Treasury. |
| 1985 | H.R. 3721 | P.L. 99-155 11/14/1985 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | P.L. 99-155 included a requirement to restore Social Security Trust Funds and to extend for a month a number of expiring acts, including a cigarette tax. |
| | H.J.Res. 372 | P.L. 99-177 12/12/1985 | Change in debt limit included as part of Balanced Budget and Deficit Reduction measure | H.J.Res. 372, enacted as P.L. 99-177, was also a vehicle for the <i>Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Reduction Act of 1985</i> . The legislation also required the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee to report by July 1, 1986, legislation for alternative minimum corporate tax. |
| 1986 | H.R. 5300 | P.L. 99-509 10/21/1986 | Change to debt limit included in Budget Reconciliation measure | P.L. 99-509, the <i>Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986</i> , included a debt limit increase to Section 8201 of Title VII of the act. Section 8201 also required the restoration of lost interest to certain trust funds. |
| 1987 | H.J.Res. 324 | P.L. 100-119 9/29/1987 | Change in debt limit included as part of a Balanced Budget and Deficit Reduction measure | H.J.Res. 324 was also used as the legislative vehicle for the <i>Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control and Reaffirmation Act of 1987</i> . |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|---|
| 1989 | H.R. 3024 | P.L. 101-72 8/07/1989 | Change to debt limit within measure on other matters | P.L. 101-72 included a change in the method of accounting for federal debt instruments. |
| | H.J.Res. 280 | P.L. 101-140 11/08/1989 | Change in debt limit included within measure on other matters | Pursuant to the provisions of H.Con.Res. 106, the FY1990 Budget Resolution, H.J.Res. 280, was considered passed by the House on May 17, 1989. The House vote on the conference report for H.Con.Res. 106 was 241-185. P.L. 101-140 included a repeal of Section 89 nondiscrimination, rules that dealt with employee benefit plans. |
| 1990 | H.J.Res. 666 | P.L. 101-412 10/09/1990 | Change in debt limit included within measure on other matters | H.J.Res. 666 was a continuing appropriations measure that included a debt limit extension. The House initially passed the measure by a vote of 305-105 on October 7, 1990. The Senate took up the measure and then passed it by unanimous consent. The House then passed the Senate amended measure on October 9, 1990, by a vote of 362-3. The measure passed the Senate by unanimous consent on October 8, 1990, and was enacted as P.L. 101-412 on October 9, 1990 |
| | H.J.Res. 677 | P.L. 101-444 10/19/1990 | Change in debt limit included in a continuing resolution | None |
| | H.J.Res. 681 | P.L. 101-461 10/25/1990 | Change in debt limit included in a continuing resolution | None |
| | H.J.Res. 687 | P.L. 101-467 10/28/1990 | Change in debt limit included in a continuing resolution | None |
| | H.R. 5835 | P.L. 101-508 11/05/1990 | Change to debt limit included in Budget Reconciliation measure | A debt limit increase was included in Section 11901 of Title XI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, P.L. 101-508. |
| 1993 | H.R. 2264 | P.L. 103-66 8/10/1993 | Change to debt limit included in Budget Reconciliation measure | A debt limit increase was included in Section 13411 of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66. |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1996 | H.R. 2924 | P.L. 104-103 2/08/1996 | Addressed parameters and temporary exemptions of certain Social Security related funds from the debt limit | P.L. 104-103 temporarily exempted from limit obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act in March 1996. The exemption was set to expire in the event of an increase in the debt limit or by March 15, 1996. |
| | H.R. 3021 | P.L. 104-115 3/12/1996 | Addressed parameters and temporary exemptions of certain Social Security related funds from the debt limit | P.L. 104-115 temporarily exempted from limit obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the <i>Social Security Act</i> in March 1996 and certain obligations issued to trust funds and other federal government accounts. The exemption was set to expire on the earlier of an increase in the limit or by March 30, 1996. |
| | H.R. 3136 | P.L. 104-121 3/29/1996 | Change to debt limit within measure on other matters | P.L. 104-121, the <i>Contract with America Advancement Act</i> , included an increase in the debt limit in Title III. |
| 1997 | H.R. 2015 | P.L. 105-33 8/05/1997 | Change to the debt limit included in Balanced Budget measure | P.L. 107-199, the <i>Balanced Budget Act of 1997</i> included a debt limit increase in Title V, Subtitle G. |
| 2008 | H.R. 3221 | P.L. 110-289 7/30/2008 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | H.R. 3221 (P.L. 110-289), the <i>Housing and Economic Recovery Act</i> , included an increase to the debt limit. |
| 2008 | H.R. 1424 | P.L. 110-343 10/03/2008 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | H.R. 1424 (P.L. 110-343), the <i>Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008</i> , included an increase to the debt limit. |
| 2009 | H.R. 1 | P.L. 111-5 2/17/2009 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | H.R. 1 (P.L. 111-5), the <i>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009</i> , included an increase to the debt limit. |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2010 | H.J.Res. 45 | P.L. 111-139 2/12/2010 | Change to debt limit included within measure on other matters | During final consideration of H.J.Res. 45, the House took up a portion of the bill passed by the Senate with an amendment that included an increase to the debt limit and passed this portion of the measure on February 4, 2010. The bill also included provisions related to "Statutory PAYGO," and elimination of "duplicative and wasteful spending." |
| 2011 | S. 365 | P.L. 112-25 8/02/2011 | Change to debt limit included within measure addressing deficit reduction | Final legislation was in the form of a House amendment in the nature of a substitute to a previously unrelated Senate bill. The Budget Control Act of 2011 as enacted includes provisions aimed at deficit reduction and an increase of up to \$2.4 trillion that would occur in several stages. |
| 2013 | H.R. 325 | P.L. 113-3 02/04/2013 | Suspended the federal debt limit temporarily. Other matters within the measure address the annual budget resolution | P.L. 113-3 temporarily suspended the statutory federal debt limit through May 18, 2013, and allowed the federal government to continue to borrow beyond the \$16,394 billion limit set under provisions within P.L. 112-25, the Budget Control Act of 2011. Additional provisions required House and Senate payroll administrators to hold all Member salary compensation if by April 15, 2013, that chamber had not agreed to a concurrent budget resolution for FY2014. The Treasury Department reset the debt limit at \$16,699 billion once the debt limit suspension period lapsed. |
| | H.R. 2775 | P.L. 113-46 10/17/2013 | Suspended the federal debt limit temporarily. Provisions included in Division B of the FY2014 Continuing Resolution Act. | Division B of P.L. 113-46 temporarily suspended the federal debt limit through February 7, 2014. On October 17, 2013, as part of P.L. 113-46, a measure providing continuing appropriations for FY2014, the debt limit was suspended again until February 7, 2014. |

| Year of Enactment | Bill Number | Public Law Number & Date of Enactment | Type of Measure | Notes on the Measure |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2015 | H.R. 1314 | P.L. 114-74 11/02/2015- | Suspension of the debt limit included within measure addressing deficit reduction | P.L. 114-74 temporarily suspended the debt limit through March 15, 2017. Measure also amended certain budget enforcement provisions of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25). |

Source: LIS available at <http://www.congress.gov>, Annual *Congressional Quarterly Almanac* volumes, CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin, and out-of-print CRS Report 97-297, *Debt Limit Increases, 1978 to 1996: Fact Sheet and Uses of the Debt Limit for Other Legislation*.

Notes: Vote tally, enacted debt limit amounts, and other data are available in **Table I**. Measures in **Table 3** are organized by year of enactment.

Selected CRS Reports and Resources

CRS Insight IN10389, *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015: Adjustments to the Budget Control Act of 2011*, by Grant A. Driessen.

CRS Report R41965, *The Budget Control Act of 2011*, by Bill Heniff Jr., Elizabeth Rybicki, and Shannon M. Mahan.

CRS Report RL31967, *The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases*, by D. Andrew Austin.

CRS Report R43389, *The Debt Limit Since 2011*, by D. Andrew Austin.

CRS Report RS21519, *Legislative Procedures for Adjusting the Public Debt Limit: A Brief Overview*, by Bill Heniff Jr.

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