

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1

OFFERED BY MR. WOLF OF VIRGINIA

Add at the end of division A the following new title:

1 **TITLE XIV—SECURING**
2 **AMERICA’S FUTURE ECONOMY**

3 **SEC. 14001. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Securing America’s
5 Future Economy Commission Act” or the “SAFE Com-
6 mission Act”.

7 **SEC. 14002. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

8 (a) **MANDATORY LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT.—**

9 (1) **ISSUES TO ADDRESS.—**The Commission
10 shall examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing
11 the United States and develop legislation designed to
12 address the following issues:

13 (A) The unsustainable imbalance between
14 long-term Federal spending commitments and
15 projected revenues.

16 (B) Increasing net national savings to pro-
17 vide for domestic investment and economic
18 growth.

1 (C) The implications of foreign ownership
2 of debt instruments issued by the United States
3 Government.

4 (D) Improving the budget process to place
5 greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

6 (2) POLICY SOLUTIONS.—Legislation developed
7 to address the issues described in paragraph (1) may
8 include the following:

9 (A) Reforms that limit the growth of enti-
10 tlement spending to ensure that the programs
11 are fiscally sustainable.

12 (B) Reforms that strengthen the safety net
13 functions of entitlement programs to provide
14 assistance to the neediest people.

15 (C) Reforms that make United States tax
16 laws more efficient and more conducive to en-
17 couraging economic growth.

18 (D) Incentives to increase private savings.

19 (E) Any other reforms designed to address
20 the issues described in paragraph (1).

21 (b) OPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COST ESTIMATE
22 ALTERNATIVES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall by an
24 affirmative vote of 5 members develop not more than
25 2 methods for estimating the cost of legislation as

1 an alternative to the method currently used by the
2 Congressional Budget Office.

3 (2) SPECIFICALLY.—Any such alternative meth-
4 od must—

5 (A) be designed to address any short-
6 comings in the method currently used with re-
7 gard to estimating the positive economic effects
8 of legislation; and

9 (B) consider the use of automatic stabi-
10 lizers or triggers to enforce spending and rev-
11 enue targets, in the event that policies based on
12 the alternative method fail to achieve targets
13 for outlays and revenues.

14 (3) LIMITATION.—Any alternative developed
15 pursuant to this subsection shall generally comply
16 with subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 14.

17 **SEC. 14003. INITIAL TOWN HALL STYLE PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold at
19 least 1 town hall style public hearing within each Federal
20 reserve district, and shall, to the extent feasible, ensure
21 that there is broad public participation in the hearings.

22 (b) HEARING FORMAT.—During each hearing, the
23 Commission shall present to the public, and generate com-
24 ments and suggestions regarding, the issues described in

1 section 3, policies designed to address the issues, and
2 tradeoffs between the policies.

3 **SEC. 14004. REPORT.**

4 The Commission shall, not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to Con-
6 gress and the President containing the following:

7 (1) A detailed description of the activities of the
8 Commission.

9 (2) A summary of comments and suggestions
10 generated from the town hall style public hearings.

11 (3) A detailed statement of any findings of the
12 Commission as to public preferences regarding the
13 issues, policies, and tradeoffs presented in the town
14 hall style public hearings.

15 (4) A detailed description of the long-term fis-
16 cal problems faced by the United States.

17 (5) A list of policy options for addressing those
18 problems.

19 (6) Criteria for the legislative proposal to be de-
20 veloped by the Commission.

21 **SEC. 14005. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
23 date the report is submitted under section 5 and by a vote
24 of three-fourths of the members, the Commission shall

1 submit a legislative proposal to Congress and the Presi-
2 dent designed to address the issues described section 3.

3 (b) PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.—The proposal must,
4 to the extent feasible, be designed—

5 (1) to achieve generational equity and long-term
6 economic stability;

7 (2) to address the comments and suggestions of
8 the public; and

9 (3) to meet the criteria set forth in the Com-
10 mission report.

11 (c) INCLUSION OF COST ESTIMATE.—The Commis-
12 sion shall submit with the proposal—

13 (1) a long-term CBO cost estimate prepared
14 under section 14 for the proposal; and

15 (2) if an alternative cost estimate method is de-
16 veloped by the Commission, a 50-year cost estimate
17 using such method.

18 **SEC. 14006. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be com-
20 posed of 16 voting members appointed pursuant to para-
21 graph (1) and 4 nonvoting members described in para-
22 graph (2).

23 (1) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission shall
24 be composed of 16 voting members of whom—

1 (A) four shall be appointed by the Speaker
2 of the House of Representatives;

3 (B) four shall be appointed by the Minority
4 Leader of the House of Representatives;

5 (C) four shall be appointed by the Majority
6 Leader of the Senate; and

7 (D) four shall be appointed by the Minor-
8 ity Leader of the Senate.

9 (2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Director of
10 the Office of Management and Budget, the Sec-
11 retary of the Treasury, the Comptroller General of
12 the United States, and the Director of the Congres-
13 sional Budget Office shall each be nonvoting mem-
14 bers of the Commission and shall advise and assist
15 at the request of the Commission.

16 (3) CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR.—The President shall
17 designate 2 co-chairpersons of the Commission from
18 the members appointed under paragraph (1), one of
19 whom must be a Republican and one of whom must
20 be a Democrat.

21 (b) DATE FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.—The ap-
22 pointing authorities described in subsection (a)(1) shall
23 appoint the initial members of the Commission not later
24 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

25 (c) TERMS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term of each member is
2 for the life of the Commission.

3 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission
4 shall be filled not later than 30 days after such va-
5 cancy occurs and in the manner in which the origi-
6 nal appointment was made.

7 (d) PAY AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

8 (1) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF COM-
9 MISSION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a
10 member of the Commission may not receive pay, al-
11 lowances, or benefits by reason of their service on
12 the Commission.

13 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
14 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
15 subsistence under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
16 5, United States Code.

17 (e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet upon
18 the call of the chairperson or a majority of its voting mem-
19 bers.

20 (f) QUORUM.—Six voting members of the Commis-
21 sion shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may
22 hold hearings.

23 **SEC. 14007. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**

24 (a) DIRECTOR.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c)
2 and to the extent provided in advance in appropria-
3 tion Acts, the Commission shall appoint and fix the
4 pay of a director.

5 (2) DUTIES.—The director of the Commission
6 shall be responsible for the administration and co-
7 ordination of the duties of the Commission and shall
8 perform other such duties as the Commission may
9 direct.

10 (b) STAFF.—In accordance with rules agreed upon
11 by the Commission, subject to subsection (c), and to the
12 extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the di-
13 rector may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel.

14 (c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
15 LAWS.—The director and staff of the Commission may be
16 appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5,
17 United States Code, governing appointments in the com-
18 petitive service, and may be paid without regard to the
19 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53
20 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule
21 pay rates, except that pay fixed under subsection (a) may
22 not exceed \$150,000 per year and pay fixed under sub-
23 section (b) may not exceed a rate equal to the daily equiva-
24 lent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Exec-

1 utive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States
2 Code.

3 (d) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee
4 may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement
5 from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the
6 rights, status, and privileges of their regular employment
7 without interruption.

8 (e) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—In accordance
9 with rules agreed upon by the Commission and to the ex-
10 tent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the direc-
11 tor may procure the services of experts and consultants
12 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but
13 at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
14 rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule
15 under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 14008. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

17 (a) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission
18 may, for the purpose of carrying out this title, hold such
19 hearings in addition to the town hall style public hearings,
20 sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony,
21 and receive such evidence as the Commission considers ap-
22 propriate. The Commission may administer oaths or affir-
23 mations to witnesses appearing before it.

24 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
25 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the

1 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
2 thorized to take under this section.

3 (e) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
4 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
5 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
6 States.

7 (d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon
8 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
9 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
10 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
11 essary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities
12 under this title.

13 (e) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—To the extent provided
14 in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission may
15 enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge
16 its duties under this title.

17 (f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and
18 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

19 **SEC. 14009. TERMINATION.**

20 The Commission shall terminate the earlier of—

21 (1) 60 days after submitting its legislative pro-
22 posal; or

23 (2) the date on which the Comptroller General
24 of the United States determines and publishes in the
25 Federal Register a statement that new legislation

1 has been enacted that is estimated to reduce the fis-
2 cal gap by—

3 (A) 1 percent of gross domestic product,
4 measured over the 20-year period beginning
5 with the first fiscal year after the date of enact-
6 ment of such legislation; and

7 (B) 2 percent of gross domestic product,
8 measured over the 50-year period beginning
9 with the first fiscal year after the date of enact-
10 ment of such legislation.

11 **SEC. 14010. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF**
12 **PRESIDENT.**

13 The President may, not later than 90 calendar days
14 after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, sub-
15 mit to Congress an alternative to the legislative proposal
16 submitted by the Commission.

17 **SEC. 14011. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FROM**
18 **THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.**

19 (a) FROM COMMITTEE.—The Committee on the
20 Budget of either House may, in consultation with the rel-
21 evant committees of their respective House and not later
22 than 90 calendar days after the Commission submits its
23 legislative proposal, have published in the Congressional
24 Record an alternative to the legislative proposal submitted
25 by the Commission.

1 (b) FROM RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.—

2 The ranking minority member of the Committee on the
3 Budget of either House may, not later than 90 calendar
4 days after the Commission submits its legislative proposal,
5 have published in the Congressional Record an alternative
6 to the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

7 **SEC. 14012. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.**

8 (a) INTRODUCTION.—Not later than the fifth legisla-
9 tive day after the Commission submits its legislative pro-
10 posal, the majority leader of each House, or his designee,
11 shall introduce (by request) the legislation submitted by
12 the Commission.

13 (b) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

14 (1) PRIVILEGED CONSIDERATION.—In the
15 House of Representatives, the legislation shall be re-
16 ported to the Committee on the Budget, which shall
17 report the bill without substantive revision. If the
18 Committee on the Budget has not reported the legis-
19 lation before the expiration of the 90-day period de-
20 scribed in section 12, then—

21 (A) that committee shall be discharged
22 from consideration of the legislation;

23 (B) the legislation shall be placed on the
24 appropriate calendar; and

1 (C) a motion to proceed to the consider-
2 ation of the legislation shall be highly privileged
3 and shall not be debatable, and a motion to re-
4 consider the vote by which the motion is dis-
5 posed of shall not be in order.

6 (2) CONSIDERATION CONSISTENT WITH CON-
7 GRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT.—Consideration of such
8 legislation shall be pursuant to the procedures set
9 forth in paragraphs (2), (5), and (6) of section
10 305(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to
11 the extent not inconsistent with this title.

12 (3) AMENDMENTS LIMITED.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legis-
15 lation may not be offered in the House of Rep-
16 resentatives.

17 (B) PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.—(i) Any
18 Member may offer, as an amendment in the na-
19 ture of a substitute, the alternative legislative
20 proposal submitted by the President.

21 (ii) The chairman of the House Committee
22 on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in
23 the nature of a substitute, the alternative legis-
24 lative proposal published in the Congressional
25 Record by the House Committee on the Budget.

1 (iii) The ranking minority member of the
2 House Committee on the Budget may offer, as
3 an amendment in the nature of a substitute,
4 the alternative legislative proposal published in
5 the Congressional Record by such ranking mi-
6 nority member.

7 (e) POINT OF ORDER.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—An amendment of-
9 fered under subparagraph (B) is subject to
10 a point of order if—

11 (I) the amendment is not accom-
12 panied by a long-term CBO cost esti-
13 mate of the amendment or a long-
14 term revenue estimate of the amend-
15 ment, which includes the information
16 described in section 14, by the Joint
17 Committee on Taxation; or

18 (II) it would increase the deficit
19 or cause a deficit either for the period
20 of the first 20 fiscal years beginning
21 with the first fiscal year after the cur-
22 rent fiscal year or for the period of
23 the first 50 fiscal years beginning
24 with the first fiscal year after the cur-

1 rent fiscal year, as judged against the
2 baseline.

3 (ii) BASELINE.—For purposes of
4 clause (i)(II), the baseline shall be cal-
5 culated using the assumption that the leg-
6 islation submitted by the Commission has
7 been enacted into law, subject to the limi-
8 tation imposed by section 14(d).

9 (iii) WAIVER.—A point of order raised
10 under clause (i) may only be waived or sus-
11 pended in the House of Representatives by
12 a resolution devoted solely to the subject of
13 waiving that point of order.

14 (D) MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.—If more
15 than one amendment is offered under this para-
16 graph, then each amendment shall be consid-
17 ered separately, and the amendment receiving
18 both a majority and the highest number of
19 votes shall be the amendment adopted.

20 (4) TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE.—If the leg-
21 islation passed in the House of Representatives pur-
22 suant to this section, the Clerk of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives shall cause the legislation to be en-
24 grossed, certified, and transmitted to the Senate not
25 later than 1 calendar day after the day on which the

1 legislation is passed. Such legislation shall be re-
2 ferred to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

3 (c) IN THE SENATE.—

4 (1) AUTOMATIC DISCHARGE OF SENATE BUDG-
5 ET COMMITTEE.—If the Senate Committee on the
6 Budget has not reported the legislation before the
7 expiration of the 90-day period described in section
8 12, then—

9 (A) the committee shall be discharged from
10 consideration of the legislation; and

11 (B) a motion to proceed to the consider-
12 ation of the legislation is highly privileged and
13 is not debatable.

14 (2) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of such
15 legislation shall be pursuant to the procedures set
16 forth in paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (6) of section
17 305(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to
18 the extent not inconsistent with this title.

19 (3) AMENDMENTS LIMITED.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legis-
22 lation may not be offered in the Senate.

23 (B) PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.—(i) Any
24 Member may offer, as an amendment in the na-

1 ture of a substitute, the alternative legislative
2 proposal submitted by the President.

3 (ii) The chairman of the Senate Committee
4 on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in
5 the nature of a substitute, the alternative legis-
6 lative proposal published in the Congressional
7 Record by the Senate Committee on the Budg-
8 et.

9 (iii) The ranking minority member of the
10 Senate Committee on the Budget may offer, as
11 an amendment in the nature of a substitute,
12 the alternative legislative proposal published in
13 the Congressional Record by such ranking mi-
14 nority member.

15 (C) POINT OF ORDER.—

16 (i) IN GENERAL.—An amendment of-
17 fered under subparagraph (B) is subject to
18 a point of order if—

19 (I) the amendment is not accom-
20 panied by a long-term CBO cost esti-
21 mate of the amendment or a long-
22 term revenue estimate of the amend-
23 ment, which includes the information
24 described in section 14, by the Joint
25 Committee on Taxation; or

1 (II) it would increase the deficit
2 or cause a deficit either for the period
3 of the first 20 fiscal years beginning
4 with the first fiscal year after the cur-
5 rent fiscal year or for the period of
6 the first 50 fiscal years beginning
7 with the first fiscal year after the cur-
8 rent fiscal year, as judged against the
9 baseline.

10 (ii) BASELINE.—For purposes of
11 clause (i)(II), the baseline shall be cal-
12 culated using the assumption that the leg-
13 islation submitted by the Commission has
14 been enacted into law, subject to the limi-
15 tation imposed by section 14(d).

16 (iii) WAIVER OF POINT OF ORDER.—
17 A point of order raised under clause (i)
18 may only be waived or suspended in the
19 Senate by an affirmative vote of 3/5 of the
20 Members duly chosen and sworn.

21 (D) MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.—If more
22 than one amendment is offered under this para-
23 graph, then each amendment shall be consid-
24 ered separately, and the amendment receiving

1 both a majority and the highest number of
2 votes shall be the amendment adopted.

3 (d) PROHIBITION ON CONCURRENT CONSIDERATION
4 OF OTHER BUDGET-RELATED LEGISLATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Until a bill or joint resolu-
6 tion considered pursuant to the procedures of this
7 section or a conference report thereon has been en-
8 rolled and presented to the President of the United
9 States, it shall not be in order in either the House
10 of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill
11 or joint resolution, amendment or motion thereto, or
12 conference report thereon that—

13 (A) provides new budget authority for any
14 fiscal year;

15 (B) provides for an increase in outlays for
16 any fiscal year;

17 (C) provides a decrease in revenues during
18 any fiscal year; or

19 (D) provides an increase in the public debt
20 limit to become effective during any fiscal year.

21 Subparagraphs (A) through (D) shall be applied on
22 a provision-by-provision basis.

23 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) does not
24 apply—

1 (A) to any measure under consideration
2 prior to the introduction, in either House, of a
3 bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to
4 the procedures of this section;

5 (B) to any measure considered after a bill
6 or joint resolution considered pursuant to the
7 procedures of this section has been defeated in
8 either House; or

9 (C) to any general appropriation bill or
10 amendment thereto, but only to the extent of
11 discretionary new budget authority provided for
12 the budget year or for the first or second fiscal
13 year after the budget year.

14 (3) WAIVER.—

15 (A) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the
16 House of Representatives, if a special rule is
17 considered that would waive points of order
18 pursuant to paragraph (1), a motion to strike
19 the provision waiving such points of order shall
20 be in order.

21 (B) SENATE.—In the Senate, a point of
22 order properly raised pursuant to paragraph (1)
23 shall be waived only by an affirmative vote of
24 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Members senators duly chosen and
25 sworn.

1 (e) APPLICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
2 ACT.—To the extent that they are relevant and not incon-
3 sistent with this title, the provisions of title III of the Con-
4 gressional Budget Act of 1974 shall apply in the House
5 of Representatives and the Senate to any bill or joint reso-
6 lution, any amendment thereto, and any conference report
7 thereon that is considered pursuant to this section.

8 (f) RULES OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
9 TIVES.—This section is enacted by Congress—

10 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
11 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-
12 spectively, and is deemed to be part of the rules of
13 each House, respectively, but applicable only with re-
14 spect to the procedure to be followed in that House
15 in the case of a bill introduced pursuant to this sec-
16 tion, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent
17 that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

18 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
19 right of either House to change the rules (so far as
20 they relate to the procedure of that House) at any
21 time, in the same manner, and to the same extent
22 as in the case of any other rule of that House.

23 **SEC. 14013. LONG-TERM CBO COST ESTIMATE.**

24 (a) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—When the
25 Commission, the President, or the chairman or ranking

1 minority member of the Committee on the Budget of ei-
2 ther House submits a written request to the Director of
3 the Congressional Budget Office for a long-term CBO cost
4 estimate of legislation proposed under this title or an
5 amendment referred to in section 13(b)(3)(B) or section
6 13(c)(3)(B), the Director shall prepare the estimate and
7 have it published in the Congressional Record as expedi-
8 tiously as possible.

9 (b) CONTENT.—A long-term CBO cost estimate shall
10 include—

11 (1) an estimate of the cost of each provision (if
12 practicable) or group of provisions of the legislation
13 or amendment for first fiscal year it would take ef-
14 fect and for each of the 49 fiscal years thereafter;
15 and

16 (2) a statement of any estimated future costs
17 not reflected by the estimate described in paragraph
18 (1).

19 (c) FORM.—To the extent that a long-term CBO cost
20 estimate presented in dollars is impracticable, the Director
21 of the Congressional Budget Office may instead present
22 the estimate in terms of percentages of gross domestic
23 product, with rounding to the nearest 1/10 of 1 percent
24 of gross domestic product.

1 (d) LIMITATIONS ON DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.—

2 A long-term CBO cost estimate shall only consider the ef-
3 fects of provisions affecting revenues and direct spending
4 (as defined by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Def-
5 icit Control Act of 1985), and shall not assume that any
6 changes in outlays will result from limitations on, or re-
7 ductions in, annual appropriations.

8 **SEC. 14014. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**

9 The Office of Management and Budget shall provide
10 up to \$2,000,000 to the Commission for its necessary ex-
11 penses in carrying out this title.

