

## SJRES 18

A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Economics and Public Finance

**Introduced:** Jul 9, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 9, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/18>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IN • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Feb 9, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 9, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HJRES 83	Identical bill	<b>Apr 1, 2016:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

## **Constitutional Amendment**

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting total outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year unless Congress authorizes the excess by a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber.

The prohibition excludes outlays for repayment of debt principal, receipts derived from borrowing, and receipts or outlays of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

The resolution requires the President to annually submit to Congress a budget in which total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

The balanced budget requirement does not apply if:

- a declaration of war is in effect or if the United States is engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security, or
- during the fiscal year or preceding fiscal year, the U.S. economy grew by less than 0% in real gross domestic product during two or more consecutive quarters or the unemployment rate was more than 7% during two or more consecutive months.

The resolution prohibits a court from enforcing the requirements by ordering cuts to Social Security or Medicare payments unless the funds available to the trust fund for a program are not sufficient to cover the outlays that would occur during the year if the fund were fully solvent.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 9, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 9, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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