

HJRES 4

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Jan 6, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Jan 12, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-joint-resolution/4>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]

Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Long, Billy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Jan 6, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 12, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 SJRES 6	Related bill	Mar 16, 2016: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
114 HJRES 17	Related bill	Jan 22, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
114 HJRES 7	Related bill	Jan 12, 2015: 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 two-thirds vote of each chamber. The prohibition excludes outlays for repayment of debt principal and receipts derived from borrowing.

The amendment prohibits total outlays for any fiscal year from exceeding 18% of the gross domestic product of the United States, unless two-thirds of each house of Congress provides for a specific increase above this amount.

The amendment requires a two-thirds vote of each chamber of Congress to impose a new tax, increase the statutory rate of any tax, or increase the aggregate amount of revenue. It requires a three-fifths vote of each chamber to increase the limit on the debt of the United States.

The President is required to submit an annual budget in which total outlays do not exceed total receipts and 18% of the gross domestic product of the United States.

The amendment prohibits a court from ordering a revenue increase to enforce the provisions of the amendment.

Congress is authorized to waive specified provisions of the amendment when the United States is engaged in a military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 12, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jan 6, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 6, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.