

HJRES 41

Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Mar 26, 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. (Apr 21, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-joint-resolution/41>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Mar 26, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 21, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HJRES 1	Related bill	Jan 12, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
114 HJRES 12	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 three-fifths roll call 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 during the previous calendar year, unless two-thirds of each house of Congress approves a higher level of outlays.

The amendment requires a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber of Congress to increase the public debt limit, suspend the public debt limit, or to increase revenue. It also requires the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress annually. Each chamber of Congress must approve a balanced budget or Members serving in the chamber may not receive compensation.

Congress is authorized to waive these requirements when a declaration of war is in effect or if the United States is engaged in a military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 21, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 26, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.