

HJRES 8

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that the Federal budget be balanced and that an increase in the Federal debt requires approval from a majority of the legislatures of the several States.

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/8>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Schweikert, David [R-AZ-6]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Jan 9, 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 2	Related bill	Mar 16, 2016: Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
114 HJRES 85	Related bill	Mar 3, 2016: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Constitutional Amendment

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting total outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year or 18% of the U.S. gross domestic product 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 requires a two-thirds vote of each chamber of Congress to levy a new tax, increase the rate of any tax, or increase the debt limit. Approval by a majority of the state legislatures is required to increase the federal debt.

The amendment provides any Member of Congress with standing and a cause of action to seek judicial enforcement of this amendment if authorized by a petition signed by one-third of the Members of either house of Congress. Courts are prohibited from ordering any increase in revenue to enforce this amendment.

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.