

HJRES 85

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that the Federal budget be balanced.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Mar 3, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 3, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-joint-resolution/85>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]

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

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barton, Joe [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Brat, Dave [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Jordan, Jim [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. McClintonck, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Schweikert, David [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Westmoreland, Lynn A. [R-GA-3]	R · GA		Mar 3, 2016
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Mar 15, 2016
Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]	R · SD		Mar 21, 2016
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]	R · VA		Jun 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 3, 2016

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 8	Related bill	Jan 12, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Summary (as of Mar 3, 2016)

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.

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

- **Mar 3, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 3, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.