

SJRES 39

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

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Mar 30, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 30, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/39>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Mar 30, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 30, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 30, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Apr 12, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 30, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HJRES 107	Related bill	Jun 29, 2017: 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,
- receipts or outlays of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, and
- outlays relating to a natural disaster if the law providing the funds explicitly exempts the funds from the requirement and is agreed to by a majority of each chamber of Congress.

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

- **Mar 30, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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