

## HJRES 98

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

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Economics and Public Finance

**Introduced:** Apr 8, 2017

**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, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-joint-resolution/98>

### 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		May 8, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 21, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HJRES 2	Related bill	Apr 12, 2018: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution Failed by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 233 - 184 (Roll no. 138). (text: CR H3162)
115 HJRES 1	Related bill	Jan 11, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
115 HJRES 14	Related bill	Jan 11, 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 two-thirds roll call vote of each chamber. The prohibition excludes outlays for repayment of debt principal and receipts derived from borrowing.

The amendment also:

- prohibits total outlays for any fiscal year from exceeding 18% of the economic output of the United States unless two-thirds of each chamber of Congress provides a specific increase in outlays above this amount;
- requires a three-fourths roll call vote of each chamber of Congress to increase the public debt limit;
- requires a two-thirds roll call vote of each chamber of Congress to increase revenue;
- requires the President to transmit to Congress a proposed balanced budget each year and prohibits the President from being compensated if the requirement is not met; and
- requires Congress to consider and approve a balanced budget each year and prohibits Members of Congress from being compensated if the requirement is not met.

Congress may 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.

The amendment prohibits a court from entering an order in any action that results in an increase in the collection of revenue.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Apr 21, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Apr 8, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 8, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.