

SJRES 18

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

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Apr 4, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Apr 4, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/18>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Apr 4, 2019
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Apr 4, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 4, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HJRES 55	Related bill	May 3, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
116 HJRES 22	Related bill	Jan 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
116 HJRES 11	Related bill	Jan 3, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

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 amendment requires the President to annually submit to Congress a budget in which total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

The amendment specifies exceptions to the requirements if a declaration of war is in effect, the United States is engaged in military conflict that causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security, economic growth is less than 0%, or the unemployment rate is more than 7%.

The amendment 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

- **Apr 4, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 4, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.