

HJRES 5

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Jan 3, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (Jan 3, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/5>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Spano, Ross [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Jan 30, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 3, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HJRES 22	Related bill	Jan 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
116 SJRES 3	Identical bill	Jan 4, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HJRES 6	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 two-thirds vote of each chamber. The prohibition excludes outlays for repayment of debt principal and receipts derived from borrowing.

The amendment prohibits total outlays for any fiscal year from exceeding 18% of the gross domestic product of the United States, unless two-thirds of each house of Congress provides for a specific increase above this amount.

The amendment requires a two-thirds vote of each chamber of Congress to impose a new tax, increase the statutory rate of any tax, or increase the aggregate amount of revenue. It requires a three-fifths vote of each chamber to increase the limit on the debt of the United States.

The President must submit an annual budget in which total outlays do not exceed total receipts and 18% of the gross domestic product of the United States.

The amendment prohibits a court from ordering a revenue increase to enforce the requirements.

Congress may waive specified requirements when a declaration of war is in effect or the United States is engaged in a military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 3, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.