

HJRES 51

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

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Mar 14, 2019

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

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 14, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/51>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Wright, Ron [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Roy, Chip [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Jan 3, 2020
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Feb 18, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 14, 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 HJRES 6	Related bill	Jan 3, 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 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

- **Mar 14, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 14, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.