

HJRES 55

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: Apr 9, 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. (May 3, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/55>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McAdams, Ben [D-UT-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Cunningham, Joe [D-SC-1]	D · SC		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]	D · FL		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [D-NJ-2]	D · NJ		Jun 20, 2019

Committee Activity

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

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 SJRES 18	Related bill	Apr 4, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
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.

Summary (as of Apr 9, 2019)

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, and receipts or outlays of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

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

- **May 3, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Apr 9, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 9, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.