

HJRES 2

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

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Economics and Public Finance

Introduced: Jan 4, 2021

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. (Mar 4, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-joint-resolution/2>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred to | Mar 4, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Economics and Public Finance

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 117 HJRES 32 | Related bill | Mar 19, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. |
| 117 HJRES 3 | Related bill | Mar 4, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. |
| 117 SJRES 6 | Identical bill | Feb 3, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

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 chamber 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 that causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 4, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.