

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 41

To establish a National Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2021

Mr. KINZINGER (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

JOINT RESOLUTION

To establish a National Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “National
5 Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform Act of
6 2021”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a joint
9 select committee of Congress to be known as the National
10 Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (hereafter
11 known as the “Committee”).

1 (b) GOAL.—The goal of the Committee shall be to
2 reduce the deficit by at least \$3,250,000,000,000 over the
3 period of fiscal years 2021 to 2031.

4 **SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

5 The functions of the Committee are to—

6 (1) investigate policies to improve the fiscal sit-
7 uation in the medium term;

8 (2) achieve fiscal sustainability over the long
9 run;

10 (3) propose legislation designed to balance the
11 budget, excluding interest payments on the debt, by
12 2031; and

13 (4) issue a final report to the appropriate con-
14 gressional committees.

15 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed
17 of 12 members appointed pursuant to subsection (b).

18 (b) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Committee shall
19 be appointed as follows:

20 (1) The majority leader of the Senate shall ap-
21 point three members from among Members of the
22 Senate.

23 (2) The minority leader of the Senate shall ap-
24 point three members from among Members of the
25 Senate.

1 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representa-
2 tives shall appoint three members from among Mem-
3 bers of the House of Representatives.

4 (4) The Speaker, in consultation with the mi-
5 nority leader, of the House of Representatives, shall
6 appoint three members from among Members of the
7 House of Representatives.

8 (c) CO-CHAIRS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be four Co-
10 Chairs of the Committee. The Co-Chairs shall be ap-
11 pointed not later than 14 calendar days after the
12 date of enactment of this joint resolution. The Co-
13 chairs shall be selected by:

14 (A) The majority leader of the Senate shall
15 appoint one Co-Chair from among Members of
16 the Senate.

17 (B) The minority leader of the Senate shall
18 appoint one Co-Chair from among Members of
19 the Senate.

20 (C) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives shall appoint one Co-Chair from
22 among Members of the House of Representa-
23 tives.

24 (D) The minority leader of the House of
25 Representatives shall appoint one Co-Chair

1 from among Members of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives.

3 (2) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-Chairs, acting
4 jointly, shall hire the staff director of the Com-
5 mittee.

6 (d) DATE.—Members of the Committee shall be ap-
7 pointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of
8 enactment of this joint resolution.

9 (e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be
10 appointed for the life of the Committee. Any vacancy in
11 the Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be
12 filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date on
13 which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the origi-
14 nal designation was made. If a member of the Committee
15 ceases to be a Member of the House of Representatives
16 or the Senate, as the case may be, the member is no longer
17 a member of the Committee and a vacancy shall exist.

18 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

19 (a) VOTE ON FINAL REPORT.—No later than 360
20 days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution,
21 the Committee shall vote on the approval of a final report
22 containing a set of recommendations to achieve the mis-
23 sion set forth in this resolution.

24 (b) SUPER MAJORITY REQUIREMENT.—The issuance
25 of a final report of the Committee shall require the ap-

1 proval of not less than 8 of the 12 members of the Com-
2 mittee.

3 (c) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE
4 LANGUAGE.—If the report and legislative language are
5 approved by the Committee pursuant to subsection (b),
6 the Committee shall submit the Committee report and leg-
7 islative language described in section 3 to the President,
8 the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives, and the majority and minority leaders of each
10 House of Congress.

11 (d) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO BE
12 MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or disapproval of the
13 Committee report and legislative language pursuant to
14 subsection (b), the Committee shall promptly make the full
15 report and legislative language, and a record of the vote,
16 available to the public.

17 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To enable the Committee to exer-
19 cise its powers, functions, and duties, there are authorized
20 to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary
21 expenses of the Committee approved by the co-chairs, sub-
22 ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate and the
23 House.

24 (b) EXPENSES.—In carrying out its functions, the
25 Committee is authorized to incur expenses in the same

1 manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Eco-
2 nomic Committee is authorized by section 11 of Public
3 Law 79–304 (15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).

4 (c) QUORUM.—Eight members of the Committee
5 shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting and
6 issuing a final report. Four members of the Committee
7 shall constitute a quorum for conducting a hearing or
8 markup.

9 (d) VOTING.—

10 (1) PROXY VOTING.—Proxy voting shall be al-
11 lowed on behalf of the members of the Committee
12 pursuant to House and Senate rules.

13 (2) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTI-
14 MATES.—The Congressional Budget Office shall pro-
15 vide estimates of the legislation in accordance with
16 sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the Congressional
17 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and 601(f))
18 (including estimates of the effect of interest payment
19 on the debt). In addition, the Congressional Budget
20 Office shall provide information on the budgetary ef-
21 fect of the legislation beyond the year 2031. The
22 Committee may not vote on any version of the re-
23 port, recommendations, or legislative language un-
24 less such estimates are available for consideration by

1 all members of the Committee at least 48 hours
2 prior to the vote as certified by the Co-Chairs.

3 (e) MEETINGS.—

4 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 21 cal-
5 endar days after the date of enactment of this joint
6 resolution, the Committee shall hold its first meet-
7 ing. The Committee may adopt its rules of procedure
8 at this time, which shall be published in the Con-
9 gressional Record.

10 (2) AGENDA.—The Co-Chairs of the Committee
11 shall provide an agenda to its members not less than
12 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

13 (f) HEARINGS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may, for the
15 purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hear-
16 ings, sit and act at such times and places, require
17 attendance of witnesses and production of books, pa-
18 pers, and documents, take such testimony, receive
19 such evidence, and administer such oaths as the
20 Committee considers advisable.

21 (2) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBIL-
22 ITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

23 (A) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Co-Chairs of
24 the Committee shall make a public announce-
25 ment of the date, place, time, and subject mat-

1 ter of any hearing to be conducted, not less
2 than 7 days in advance of such hearing, unless
3 all four Co-Chairs determine that there is good
4 cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

5 (B) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A witness ap-
6 pearing before the Committee shall file a writ-
7 ten statement of proposed testimony at least 24
8 hours before the appearance of the witness, un-
9 less the requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs,
10 following their determination that there is good
11 cause for failure to comply with such require-
12 ment.

13 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written request
14 of the four Co-Chairs, a Federal agency shall provide tech-
15 nical assistance to the Committee in order for the Com-
16 mittee to carry out its duties.

17 **SEC. 7. STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairs of the Committee
19 may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff as
20 they deem necessary, within the guidelines for employees
21 of the Senate and following all applicable rules and em-
22 ployment requirements of the Senate.

23 (b) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—Members on the Com-
24 mittee who serve in the House of Representatives shall be
25 governed by the ethics rules and requirements of the

1 House. Members of the Senate who serve on the Com-
 2 mittee and staff of the Committee shall comply with the
 3 ethics rules of the Senate.

4 **SEC. 8. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REC-**
 5 **COMMENDATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—If approved by the majority re-
 7 quired by section 5(b), the proposed legislative language
 8 submitted pursuant to section 3 shall be introduced in the
 9 Senate (by request) on the next day on which the Senate
 10 is in session by the majority leader of the Senate or by
 11 a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader
 12 of the Senate and shall be introduced in the House of Rep-
 13 resentatives (by request) on the next legislative day by the
 14 majority leader of the House or by a Member of the House
 15 designated by the majority leader of the House.

16 (b) CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
 17 ATIVES.—

18 (1) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any com-
 19 mittee of the House of Representatives to which the
 20 joint committee bill is referred shall report it to the
 21 House without amendment not later than 7 session
 22 days. If a committee fails to report the joint com-
 23 mittee bill within that period, it shall be in order to
 24 move that the House discharge the committee from
 25 further consideration of the bill. Such a motion shall

1 not be in order after the last committee authorized
2 to consider the bill reports it to the House or after
3 the House has disposed of a motion to discharge the
4 bill. The previous question shall be considered as or-
5 dered on the motion to its adoption without inter-
6 vening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally
7 divided and controlled by the proponent and an op-
8 ponent. If such a motion is adopted, House shall
9 proceed immediately to consider the bill in accord-
10 ance with this subsection. A motion to reconsider the
11 vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be
12 in order.

13 (2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
14 the last committee authorized to consider a joint
15 committee bill reports it to the House or has been
16 discharged (other than by motion) from its consider-
17 ation, it shall be in order to move to proceed to con-
18 sider the joint committee bill in the House. Such a
19 motion shall not be in order after the House has dis-
20 posed of a motion to proceed with respect to the
21 joint committee bill. The previous question shall be
22 considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption
23 without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider
24 the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not
25 be in order.

1 (3) CONSIDERATION.—The joint committee bill
2 shall be considered as read. All points of order
3 against the joint committee bill and against its con-
4 sideration are waived. The previous question shall be
5 considered as ordered on the joint committee bill to
6 its passage without intervening motion except 2
7 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the
8 proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit
9 debate on the joint committee bill. A motion to re-
10 consider the vote on passage of the joint committee
11 bill shall not be in order.

12 (4) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage
13 of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than
14 7 session days after being reported.

15 (c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

16 (1) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A joint com-
17 mittee bill introduced in the Senate under subsection
18 (a) shall be referred to the committee or committees
19 of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the bill
20 without any revision and with a favorable rec-
21 ommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or
22 without recommendation, not later than 7 session
23 days. If any committee fails to report the bill within
24 that period, that committee shall be automatically

1 discharged from consideration of the bill, and the
2 bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

3 (2) MOTION TO PROCEED.—Notwithstanding
4 Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it
5 is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the
6 date on which a joint committee bill is reported or
7 on which Committee(s) are discharged from their
8 consideration of the bill, for the majority leader of
9 the Senate or the majority leader’s designee to move
10 to proceed to the consideration of the joint com-
11 mittee bill. It shall also be in order for any Member
12 of the Senate to move to proceed to the consider-
13 ation of the joint committee bill at any time after
14 the conclusion of such 2-day period. All points of
15 order against the motion to proceed to the joint
16 committee bill are waived. The motion to proceed is
17 not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion
18 to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by
19 which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall
20 not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consid-
21 eration of the joint committee bill is agreed to, the
22 joint committee bill shall remain the unfinished busi-
23 ness until disposed of.

24 (3) CONSIDERATION.—All points of order
25 against the joint committee bill and against consid-

1 eration of the joint committee bill are waived. Con-
2 sideration of the joint committee bill and of all de-
3 batable motions and appeals in connection therewith
4 shall not exceed a total of 30 hours which shall be
5 divided equally between the majority and minority
6 leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit
7 debate on the joint committee bill is in order, shall
8 require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the
9 Members duly chosen and sworn, and is not debat-
10 able. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable
11 for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally be-
12 tween those favoring and those opposing the motion
13 or appeal. All time used for consideration of the
14 joint committee bill, including time used for quorum
15 calls and voting, shall be counted against the total
16 30 hours of consideration.

17 (4) NO AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to the
18 joint committee bill, or a motion to postpone, or a
19 motion to proceed to the consideration of other busi-
20 ness, or a motion to recommit the joint committee
21 bill, is not in order.

22 (5) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has
23 voted to proceed to the joint committee bill, the vote
24 on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur im-
25 mediately following the conclusion of the debate on

1 a joint committee bill, and a single quorum call at
 2 the conclusion of the debate if requested. The vote
 3 on passage of the committee bill shall occur not later
 4 than 7 session days.

5 (6) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—
 6 Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to
 7 the application of the rules of the Senate, as the
 8 case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint
 9 committee bill shall be decided without debate.

10 (d) AMENDMENT.—The joint committee bill shall not
 11 be subject to amendment in either the House of Rep-
 12 resentatives or the Senate.

13 (e) CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing the Com-
 15 mittee, one House receives from the other a joint
 16 committee bill—

17 (A) the joint committee bill of the other
 18 House not be referred to a committee; and

19 (B) the procedure in the receiving House
 20 shall be the same as if no joint committee bill
 21 had been received from the other House until
 22 the vote on passage, when the joint committee
 23 bill received from the other House shall sup-
 24 plant the joint committee bill of the receiving
 25 House.

1 (2) REVENUE MEASURE.—This subsection shall
 2 not apply to the House of Representatives if the
 3 joint committee bill received from the Senate is a
 4 revenue measure.

5 (f) RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER
 6 HOUSE.—

7 (1) TREATMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BILL OF
 8 OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or
 9 consider a joint committee bill under this section,
 10 the joint committee bill of the House shall be enti-
 11 tled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

12 (2) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN
 13 THE SENATE.—If following passage of the joint com-
 14 mittee bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives
 15 the joint committee bill from the House of Rep-
 16 resentatives, the House-passed joint committee bill
 17 shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the
 18 joint committee bill in the Senate shall be considered
 19 to be the vote on passage of the joint committee bill
 20 received from the House of Representatives.

21 (3) VETOES.—If the President vetoes the joint
 22 committee bill, debate on a veto message in the Sen-
 23 ate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided
 24 between the majority and minority leaders or their
 25 designees.

1 (g) LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.—The provisions of this sec-
 2 tion shall cease to apply to the joint committee bill if—

3 (1) the Committee fails to vote on the report or
 4 proposed legislative language required under section
 5 3 not later than 390 days after the date of enact-
 6 ment of this joint resolution; or

7 (2) the joint committee bill does not pass both
 8 Houses not later than 180 days.

9 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

10 The Committee shall terminate 30 days after submit-
 11 ting its final report.

12 **SEC. 10. DEFINITION.**

13 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
 14 mittees” means—

15 (1) the Committees on Appropriations, Ways
 16 and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Budget of
 17 the House of Representatives; and

18 (2) the Committees on Appropriations, Finance,
 19 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Budget
 20 of the Senate.

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