

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3289

To establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CASE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. HOUCHEIN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BARR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fiscal Commission
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) CO-CHAIR.—The term “co-chair” means an
2 individual appointed to serve as a co-chair of the
3 Fiscal Commission under section 3(a)(3)(B)(i).

4 (2) FISCAL COMMISSION.—The term “Fiscal
5 Commission” means the commission established
6 under section 3(a).

7 (3) IMPLEMENTING BILL.—The term “implementing bill” means a bill or joint resolution consisting solely of the legislative text the Fiscal Commission approves and submits under clauses (i) and
10 (v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B).

12 (4) OUTSIDE EXPERT.—The term “outside expert” is an individual who is not an elected official
13 or an officer or employee of the Federal Government
14 or of any State.

16 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL COMMISSION.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL COMMISSION.—

18 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, there
21 is established in Congress a Fiscal Commission.

22 (B) GOALS.—The goals of the Commission
23 shall be to educate, and bring awareness to, the
24 American public about the fiscal path the Nation
25 is on, including—

(i) educating the American people so they understand the fiscal state of the Nation and the cost of not addressing such state; and

(ii) informing the American people about the deterioration of our Nation's fiscal health, and that the debt poses a significant risk to the Nation's long-term fiscal sustainability with implications for future generations.

(2) DUTIES.—

(A) IMPROVE FISCAL SITUATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission shall identify policies to—

(I) meaningfully improve the long-term fiscal condition of the Federal Government, including reducing the debt and deficit;

(II) achieve a sustainable ratio of the public debt of the Federal Government to the gross domestic product of the United States, which shall be not more than 100 percent, by fiscal year 2039; and

(III) improve the solvency of Federal programs for which a Federal trust fund exists for a period of at least 75 years.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out clause (i), the Fiscal Commission shall, to the extent practicable, consider the budgetary effects of changes in economic output, employment, capital stock, and other macroeconomic variables resulting from public and private investments and propose recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-term fiscal condition of the Federal Government, including—

(I) changes to address the current levels of discretionary appropriations, direct spending, and revenues and the gap between current revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government; and

(II) changes to address the growth of discretionary appropriations, direct spending, and revenues and the gap between the projected

1 revenues and expenditures of the Fed-
2 eral Government.

3 (iii) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMIT-
4 TEES.—Not later than 60 days after the
5 date described in paragraph (1), each com-
6 mittee of the Senate and the House of
7 Representatives may transmit to the Fiscal
8 Commission any recommendations of the
9 committee relating to changes in law to
10 further the duties described in clause (ii).

11 (iv) INTERIM REPORT.—The Fiscal
12 Commission may meet to consider, and
13 vote on, an interim report on—

14 (I) any findings, conclusions, or
15 recommendations of the Fiscal Com-
16 mission described in subparagraph
17 (A)(i);

18 (II) any findings or recommenda-
19 tions with respect to carrying out the
20 goals described in paragraph (1)(B);
21 and

22 (III) as the Fiscal Commission
23 determines appropriate, any findings
24 resulting from any hearing held or
25 evidence received by the Commission.

(B) REPORT IDENTIFIED POLICIES.—

1 of a majority of the members of the Fiscal
2 Commission, provided that such majority
3 shall be required to include not less than
4 2 members of the Fiscal Commission ap-
5 pointed by members of the Republican
6 Party and 2 members appointed by mem-
7 bers of the Democratic party.

8 (iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—

9 (I) IN GENERAL.—A member of
10 the Fiscal Commission who gives no-
11 tice of an intention to file supple-
12 mental, minority, or additional views
13 at the time of the final Fiscal Com-
14 mission vote on the approval of the re-
15 port and legislative language of the
16 Fiscal Commission under clause (i)
17 shall be entitled to 3 days to file those
18 views in writing with the staff director
19 of the Fiscal Commission.

20 (II) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—

21 Views filed under subclause (I) shall
22 be included in the report of the Fiscal
23 Commission under clause (i) and
24 printed in the same volume, or part
25 thereof, and such inclusion shall be

1 noted on the cover of the report, ex-
2 cept that, in the absence of timely no-
3 tice, the report may be printed and
4 transmitted immediately without such
5 views.

6 (iv) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LAN-
7 GUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the
8 approval or disapproval of a report and
9 legislative language under clause (i) by the
10 Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission
11 shall promptly, and not more than 24
12 hours after the approval or disapproval or,
13 if timely notice is given under clause (iii),
14 not more than 24 hours after additional
15 views are filed under such clause, make the
16 report, the legislative language, and a
17 record of the vote on the report and legis-
18 lative language available to the public.

19 (v) SUBMISSION OF REPORT AND LEG-
20 ISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If a report and leg-
21 islative language are approved by the Fis-
22 cal Commission under clause (i), not later
23 than 3 days after the date on which the re-
24 port and legislative language are made
25 available to the public under clause (iv),

(vi) EXTENSION.—The Fiscal Commission may extend the deadline set forth in clause (i) to April 13, 2027, if the Fiscal Commission determines that additional time is necessary to complete their duties under this Act. Such extension shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the Fiscal Commission, provided that such majority shall be required to include not less than 2 members of the Fiscal Commission appointed by members of the Republican Party and 2 members appointed by members of the Democratic party.

1 awareness and education with respect to the fis-
2 cal condition of the Federal Government.

3 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission
5 shall be composed of 16 members appointed,
6 not later than 14 days after the date described
7 in paragraph (1) and with due consideration to
8 chairs and ranking minority members of the
9 committees and subcommittees of subject mat-
10 ter jurisdiction (as applicable), as follows:

11 (i) 3 individuals from among the
12 Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-
13 pert, appointed by the majority leader of
14 the Senate.

15 (ii) 3 individuals from among the
16 Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-
17 pert, appointed by the minority leader of
18 the Senate.

19 (iii) 3 individuals from among the
20 Members of the House of Representatives,
21 and 1 outside expert, appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 (iv) 3 individuals from among the
24 Members of the House of Representatives,
25 and 1 outside expert, appointed by the mi-

1 nority leader of the House of Representa-
2 tives.

3 (B) Co-CHAIRS.—

1 hire the staff director of the Fiscal Com-
2 mission.

3 (C) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—The members of
5 the Fiscal Commission shall be appointed
6 for the life of the Fiscal Commission.

7 (ii) VACANCY.—

8 (I) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy
9 in the Fiscal Commission shall not af-
10 fect the powers of the Fiscal Commis-
11 sion, but shall be filled not later than
12 14 days after the date on which the
13 vacancy occurs, in the same manner
14 as the original appointment was
15 made.

16 (II) INELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—If a
17 member of the Fiscal Commission who
18 was appointed as a Member of the
19 Senate or the House Representatives
20 ceases to be a Member of the Senate
21 or the House of Representatives, as
22 applicable—

23 (aa) the member shall no
24 longer be a member of the Fiscal
25 Commission; and

3 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—

(B) EXPENSES.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, in carrying out the functions of the Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee is authorized under section 11(d) of the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).

1 mining whether there is a quorum under this
2 subparagraph.

3 (D) VOTING.—

4 (i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting
5 shall be allowed on behalf of any member
6 of the Fiscal Commission.

7 (ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
8 ESTIMATES.—

9 (I) IN GENERAL.—The Director
10 of the Congressional Budget Office
11 shall, with respect to the legislative
12 language of the Fiscal Commission
13 under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), provide
14 to the Fiscal Commission—

15 (aa) estimates of the legisla-
16 tive language in accordance with
17 sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the
18 Congressional Budget Act of
19 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and
20 601(f)); and

21 (bb) information on the
22 budgetary effects of the legisla-
23 tive language on the long-term
24 fiscal outlook.

(II) LIMITATION.—The Fiscal Commission may not vote on any version of the report, recommendations, or legislative language of the Fiscal Commission under paragraph (2)(B)(i) unless the estimates and information described in subclause (I) of this clause are made available for consideration by all members of the Fiscal Commission not later than 48 hours before that vote, as certified by the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission.

22 (E) MEETINGS.—

1 hold the first meeting of the Fiscal Com-
2 mission.

3 (ii) AGENDA.—For each meeting of
4 the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of the
5 Fiscal Commission shall provide an agenda
6 to the members of the Fiscal Commission
7 not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

8 (F) HEARINGS.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Com-
10 mission may, for the purpose of carrying
11 out this section, hold such hearings, sit
12 and act at such times and places, require
13 attendance of witnesses and production of
14 books, papers, and documents, take such
15 testimony, receive such evidence, and ad-
16 minister such oaths as the Fiscal Commis-
17 sion considers advisable.

18 (ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RE-
19 SPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

20 (I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-
21 chairs of the Fiscal Commission shall
22 make a public announcement of the
23 date, place, time, and subject matter
24 of any hearing to be conducted under
25 this subparagraph not later than 7

1 days before the date of the hearing,
2 unless the co-chairs determine that
3 there is good cause to begin such
4 hearing on an earlier date.

5 (II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A
6 witness appearing before the Fiscal
7 Commission shall file a written state-
8 ment of the proposed testimony of the
9 witness not later than 2 days before
10 the date of the appearance of the wit-
11 ness, unless the co-chairs of the Fiscal
12 Commission—

13 (aa) determine that there is
14 good cause for the witness to not
15 file the written statement; and

16 (bb) waive the requirement
17 that the witness file the written
18 statement.

19 (iii) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—The
20 Fiscal Commission shall hold not less than
21 6 hearings under this subparagraph, which
22 shall include—

23 (I) field hearings through the
24 Nation;

(II) hearings to solicit testimony from appropriate officials of the executive branch; and

(III) hearings to solicit testimony from Members of Congress (in this subclause defined as a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico).

(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION.—Upon written request of the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission, the head of a Federal agency (including legislative branch agencies) shall provide technical assistance to, and consult with, the Fiscal Commission in order for the Fiscal Commission to carry out their duties.

(H) OUTSIDE EXPERT.—Any outside expert appointed to the Fiscal Commission—

(i) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Fiscal Commission; and

9 (b) STAFF OF FISCAL COMMISSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal
11 Commission may jointly appoint and fix the com-
12 pensation of staff of the Fiscal Commission as the
13 co-chairs determine necessary, in accordance with
14 the guidelines, rules, and requirements relating to
15 employees of the Senate.

16 (2) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—

(A) SENATE.—Members appointed by
Members of the Senate who serve on the Fiscal
Commission and staff of the Fiscal Commission
shall adhere to the ethics rules of the Senate.

(B) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Members appointed by Members of the House of Representatives who serve on the Fiscal Commission shall be governed by the ethics rules

1 and requirements of the House of Representa-
2 tives.

3 (c) TERMINATION.—The Fiscal Commission shall ter-
4 minate on the date that is 30 days after the date the Fis-
5 cal Commission submits the report under subsection
6 (a)(2)(B)(v).

7 **SEC. 4. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTING
8 BILLS.**

9 (a) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION.—Only an imple-
10 menting bill shall be entitled to expedited consideration
11 under this section.

12 (b) CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
13 ATIVES.—

14 (1) INTRODUCTION.—If the Fiscal Commission
15 approves and submits legislative language under
16 clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section
17 3(a)(2)(B), the implementing bill consisting solely of
18 that legislative language shall be introduced in the
19 House of Representatives (by request)—

20 (A) by the majority leader of the House of
21 Representatives, or by a Member of the House
22 of Representatives designated by the majority
23 leader of the House of Representatives, on the
24 third legislative day after the date the Fiscal

1 Commission approves and submits such legisla-
2 tive language; or

3 (B) if the implementing bill is not intro-
4 duced under subparagraph (A), by any Member
5 of the House of Representatives on any legisla-
6 tive day beginning on the legislative day after
7 the legislative day described in subparagraph
8 (A).

9 (2) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any com-
10 mittee of the House of Representatives to which an
11 implementing bill is referred shall report the imple-
12 menting bill to the House of Representatives without
13 amendment not later than 5 legislative days after
14 the date on which the implementing bill was so re-
15 ferred. If any committee of the House of Represent-
16 atives to which an implementing bill is referred fails
17 to report the implementing bill within that period,
18 that committee shall be automatically discharged
19 from consideration of the implementing bill, and the
20 implementing bill shall be placed on the appropriate
21 calendar.

22 (3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
23 the last committee authorized to consider an imple-
24 menting bill reports it to the House of Representa-
25 tives or has been discharged from its consideration,

1 it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider
2 the implementing bill in the House of Representa-
3 tives. Such a motion shall not be in order after the
4 House of Representatives has disposed of a motion
5 to proceed with respect to the implementing bill. The
6 previous question shall be considered as ordered on
7 the motion to its adoption without intervening mo-
8 tion.

9 (4) CONSIDERATION.—The implementing bill
10 shall be considered as read. All points of order
11 against the implementing bill and against its consid-
12 eration are waived. The previous question shall be
13 considered as ordered on the implementing bill to its
14 passage without intervening motion except 2 hours
15 of debate equally divided and controlled by the pro-
16 ponent and an opponent.

17 (5) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage
18 of the implementing bill shall occur pursuant to the
19 constraints under clause 8 of rule XX of the Rules
20 of the House of Representatives.

21 (c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

22 (1) INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—On the
23 day on which an implementing bill is submitted to
24 the Senate under section 3(a)(2)(B)(v), the imple-
25 menting bill shall be introduced, by request, by the

1 majority leader of the Senate for himself or herself
2 and the minority leader of the Senate, or by any
3 Member so designated by them. If the Senate is not
4 in session on the day on which such implementing
5 bill is submitted, it shall be introduced as provided
6 on the first day thereafter on which the Senate is in
7 session. Such implementing bill shall be placed on
8 the Calendar of Business under General Orders.

9 (2) PROCEEDING.—Notwithstanding rule XXII
10 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order,
11 not later than 2 days of session after the date on
12 which an implementing bill is placed on the Cal-
13 endar, for the majority leader of the Senate or the
14 designee of the majority leader to move to proceed
15 to the consideration of the implementing bill. It shall
16 also be in order for any Member of the Senate to
17 move to proceed to the consideration of the imple-
18 menting bill at any time after the conclusion of such
19 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even
20 though a previous motion to the same effect has
21 been disagreed to. All points of order against the
22 motion to proceed to the implementing bill are
23 waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The
24 motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A mo-
25 tion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is

1 agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If
2 a motion to proceed to the consideration of the im-
3 plementing bill is agreed to, it shall remain the un-
4 finished business until disposed of. All points of
5 order against the implementing bill and against its
6 consideration are waived.

7 (3) NO AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to the
8 implementing bill, a motion to postpone, a motion to
9 proceed to the consideration of other business, or a
10 motion to commit the implementing bill is not in
11 order.

12 (4) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—
13 Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to
14 the application of the rules of the Senate, as the
15 case may be, to the procedure relating to an imple-
16 menting bill shall be decided without debate.

17 (d) AMENDMENT.—An implementing bill shall not be
18 subject to amendment in either the Senate or the House
19 of Representatives.

20 (e) CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing an imple-
22 menting bill, one House receives from the other
23 House an implementing bill consisting solely of the
24 text of the implementing bill approved by the Fiscal
25 Commission—

13 (f) RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER
14 HOUSE.—

1 menting bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives
2 from the House of Representatives an implementing
3 bill consisting of the same text as the Senate-passed
4 implementing bill, the House-passed implementing
5 bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of
6 the implementing bill in the Senate shall be consid-
7 ered to be the vote on passage of the implementing
8 bill received from the House of Representatives.

9 (3) VETOES.—If the President vetoes an imple-
10 menting bill, consideration of a veto message in the
11 Senate under this paragraph shall be 10 hours
12 equally divided between the majority and minority
13 leaders of the Senate or the designees of the major-
14 ity and minority leaders of the Senate.

15 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

16 Funding for the Fiscal Commission shall be derived
17 in equal portions from—

18 (1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the
19 appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, sub-
20 ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and

21 (2) the applicable accounts of the House of
22 Representatives.

23 **SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.**

24 The provisions of this Act are enacted by Congress—

1 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
2 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-
3 spectively, and, as such, the provisions—

4 (A) shall be considered as part of the rules
5 of each House, respectively, or of that House to
6 which they specifically apply; and

7 (B) shall supersede other rules only to the
8 extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

9 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
10 right of either House to change such rules (so far
11 as relating to such House) at any time, in the same
12 manner, and to the same extent as in the case of
13 any other rule of such House.

