

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6996

To establish the Joint Select Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Economic Security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. ROUDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 the Joint Select Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Economic Security.

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 Responsibility
5 and Long-Term Economic Security Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**

7 Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974
8 (2 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new section:

1 “ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON FIS-
2 CAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC
3 SECURITY

4 “SEC. 316. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—The term
6 ‘joint select committee’ means the Joint Select Com-
7 mittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Eco-
8 nomic Security established under subsection (b)(1).

9 “(2) JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE BILL.—The
10 term ‘joint select committee bill’ means a bill con-
11 sisting of the proposed legislative language of the
12 joint select committee recommended under sub-
13 section (b)(3)(B) and introduced under subsection
14 (e)(1).

15 “(3) FISCAL IMBALANCE.—The term ‘fiscal im-
16 balance’ means the gap between the projected reve-
17 nues and expenditures of the Government.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COM-
19 MITTEE.—

20 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
21 the legislative branch a joint select committee to be
22 known as the ‘Joint Select Committee on Fiscal Re-
23 sponsibility and Long-Term Economic Security’.

24 “(2) PURPOSES.—

1 “(A) REVIEW.—The joint select committee
2 shall review the fiscal imbalance of the Govern-
3 ment, including—

4 “(i) analyses of projected expendi-
5 tures;

6 “(ii) analyses of projected revenues;
7 and

8 “(iii) analyses of the current and
9 long-term actuarial financial condition of
10 the Government.

11 “(B) IDENTIFY FACTORS.—The joint select
12 committee shall identify factors that affect the
13 long-term fiscal imbalance of the Government.

14 “(C) ANALYZE POTENTIAL COURSES OF
15 ACTION.—The joint select committee shall ana-
16 lyze potential courses of action to address fac-
17 tors that affect the long-term fiscal imbalance
18 of the Government.

19 “(D) PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND
20 LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—In consultation with
21 the applicable committees of subject-matter ju-
22 risdiction, the joint select committee shall pro-
23 vide recommendations and legislative language
24 that will significantly improve the long-term fis-

cal imbalance of the Government, including recommendations addressing—

“(i) expenditures;

“(ii) revenues; and

“(iii) the current and long-term actuarial financial condition of the Government.

“(3) DUTIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint select committee shall address the Nation’s long-term fiscal imbalances, consistent with the purposes described in paragraph (2), and shall submit the report and recommendations required under subparagraph (B).

“(B) REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Economic Security Act, the joint select committee shall vote on a report that contains—

“(I) a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and rec-

1 ommendations of the joint select com-
2 mittee;

3 “(II) the assumptions, scenarios,
4 and alternatives considered in reach-
5 ing such findings, conclusions, and
6 recommendations; and

7 “(III) proposed legislative lan-
8 guage to carry out such recommenda-
9 tions as described in paragraph
10 (2)(D).

11 “(ii) APPROVAL OF REPORT.—The re-
12 port of the joint select committee sub-
13 mitted under clause (i) shall require the
14 approval of not fewer than 10 out of 16
15 members that includes not fewer than 5
16 members from the political party of the
17 Speaker of the House and not fewer than
18 5 members of the opposing political party.

19 “(iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—A member
20 of the joint select committee who gives no-
21 tice of an intention to file supplemental,
22 minority, or additional views at the time of
23 final joint select committee approval of the
24 report under clause (ii), shall be entitled to
25 not less than 3 calendar days in which to

1 file such views in writing with the staff di-
2 rector of the joint select committee. Such
3 views shall then be included in the joint se-
4 lect committee report and printed in the
5 same volume, or part thereof, and their in-
6 clusion shall be noted on the cover of the
7 report. In the absence of timely notice, the
8 joint select committee report may be print-
9 ed and transmitted immediately without
10 such views.

11 “(iv) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT.—

12 Not later than 7 days after the vote of the
13 joint select committee under clause (i), the
14 joint select committee shall submit its bill
15 and final report to the Speaker of the
16 House and the majority and minority lead-
17 ers of both Houses.

18 “(v) REPORT TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—

19 Upon the approval or disapproval of the
20 joint select committee report pursuant to
21 clause (ii), the joint select committee shall
22 promptly make the full report, and a
23 record of the vote, available to the public.

24 “(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint select com-
2 mittee shall be composed of 16 members des-
3 ignated pursuant to subparagraph (B).

4 “(B) DESIGNATION.—Members of the joint
5 select committee shall be designated as follows:

6 “(i) The majority leader of the Senate
7 shall designate 4 members from among
8 Members of the Senate.

9 “(ii) The minority leader of the Sen-
10 ate shall designate 4 members from among
11 Members of the Senate.

12 “(iii) The Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives shall designate 8 members
14 from among Members of the House of
15 Representatives of whom 4 shall be upon
16 the recommendation of the minority leader.

17 “(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be 2
19 Co-Chairs of the joint select committee.
20 The Speaker of the House in coordination
21 with the minority leader of the Senate
22 shall designate one Co-Chair among the
23 voting members of the joint select com-
24 mittee. The majority leader of the Senate
25 in coordination with the minority leader of

1 the House shall designate the second Co-
2 Chair among the members of the joint se-
3 lect committee. The Co-Chairs shall be ap-
4 pointed not later than 30 days after the
5 date of enactment of this section.

6 “(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-
7 Chairs, acting jointly, shall hire the staff
8 director of the joint select committee.

9 “(D) DATE.—Members of the joint select
10 committee shall be designated by not later than
11 90 days after the date of enactment of this sec-
12 tion.

13 “(E) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—Members
14 shall be designated for the life of the joint se-
15 lect committee. Any vacancy in the joint select
16 committee shall not affect its powers, but shall
17 be filled not later than 15 days after the date
18 on which the vacancy occurs in the same man-
19 ner as the original designation.

20 “(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

21 “(A) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH RULES
22 AND REGULATIONS.—The Co-Chairs, in con-
23 sultation with the other members of the joint
24 select committee, may establish rules and regu-
25 lations for the conduct of joint select committee

1 business, if such rules and regulations are not
2 inconsistent with this section or the Rules of
3 the House of Representatives or the Standing
4 Rules of the Senate.

5 “(B) QUORUM.—Nine members of the
6 joint select committee shall constitute a quorum
7 for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding
8 hearings.

9 “(C) VOTING.—

10 “(i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting
11 shall be allowed on behalf of the members
12 of the joint select committee.

13 “(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OF-
14 FICE AND JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
15 ESTIMATES.—The Congressional Budget
16 Office and Joint Committee on Taxation
17 shall provide estimates of the joint select
18 committee report and recommendations (as
19 described in paragraph (2)(D)) in accord-
20 ance with section 308(a) and 201(f) of the
21 Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The
22 joint select committee may not vote on any
23 version of the report, recommendations, or
24 legislative language unless a final estimate
25 is available for consideration by all the

1 members at least 72 hours prior to the
2 vote.

3 “(D) MEETINGS.—

4 “(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later
5 than 45 days after the appointment of the
6 Co-Chairs, the joint select committee shall
7 hold its first meeting.

8 “(ii) MEETINGS.—The joint select
9 committee shall meet at the call of the Co-
10 Chairs or at least 10 of its members.

11 “(iii) AGENDA.—An agenda shall be
12 provided to the joint select committee
13 members at least 3 legislative days in ad-
14 vance of any meeting. Joint select com-
15 mittee members who want to have items
16 placed on the agenda for consideration
17 shall notify the staff director as early as
18 possible, but not less than 48 hours in ad-
19 vance of a scheduled meeting.

20 “(E) HEARINGS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The joint select
22 committee may, for the purpose of carrying
23 out this section, hold such hearings, sit
24 and act at such times and places, take
25 such testimony, receive such evidence, and

1 administer such oaths the joint select com-
2 mittee considers advisable.

3 “(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RE-
4 SPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

5 “(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The
6 joint select committee Co-Chairs shall
7 make public announcement of the
8 date, place, time, and subject matter
9 of any hearing to be conducted at
10 least 3 legislative days in advance of
11 such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs de-
12 termine that there is good cause to
13 begin such hearing at an earlier date.

14 “(II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A
15 witness appearing before the joint se-
16 lect committee, including the Sec-
17 retary of the Treasury, shall file a
18 written statement of proposed testi-
19 mony at least 2 days prior to appear-
20 ance, unless the requirement is waived
21 by the Co-Chairs, following their de-
22 termination that there is good cause
23 for failure of compliance.

24 “(F) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon
25 written request of the Co-Chairs, a Federal

1 agency shall provide technical assistance to the
2 joint select committee in order for the joint se-
3 lect committee to carry out its duties.

4 “(c) STAFF OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—

5 “(1) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF
6 SHARED STAFF.—The Co-Chairs may appoint and
7 fix the compensation of a staff director and such
8 other personnel as may be necessary to enable the
9 joint select committee to carry out its functions,
10 without regard to the provisions of title 5, United
11 States Code, governing appointments in the competi-
12 tive service, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate
13 paid a person occupying a position at level III of the
14 Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5,
15 United States Code.

16 “(2) ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR JOINT SELECT
17 COMMITTEE MEMBERS.—Each member of the joint
18 select committee may appoint 1 additional dedicated
19 staff and fix the compensation of such dedicated
20 personnel without regard to the provisions of title 5,
21 United States Code, governing appointments in the
22 competitive service, but at rates not to exceed the
23 daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level
24 III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of

1 title 5, United States Code. Dedicated staff shall re-
2 port to each appointing member.

3 “(3) ADVISORY PANEL.—The joint select com-
4 mittee may establish an advisory panel consisting of
5 volunteers with knowledge and expertise relevant to
6 the joint select committee’s purpose. Membership of
7 the Advisory Panel, and the scope of the Panel’s ac-
8 tivities, shall be decided by the Co-Chairs in con-
9 sultation with the other members of the joint select
10 committee.

11 “(d) TERMINATION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The joint select committee
13 shall terminate 90 days after the joint select com-
14 mittee submits the report required under subsection
15 (b)(3)(B).

16 “(2) CONCLUDING ACTIVITIES.—The joint se-
17 lect committee may use the 90-day period referred
18 to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding its
19 activities, including providing testimony to commit-
20 tees of Congress concerning its report and dissemi-
21 nating the final report.

22 “(e) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—

23 “(1) INTRODUCTION OF JOINT SELECT COM-
24 MITTEE BILL.—The joint select committee bill—

“(A) shall be introduced in the Senate (by request), with any technical changes necessary to carry out the intent of the bill, by the majority leader of the Senate or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate not later than 5 legislative days after the date on which the bill is submitted to Congress under subsection (b)(3)(B); and

“(B) shall be introduced in the House of Representatives (by request), with any technical changes necessary to carry out the intent of the bill, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or by a Member of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than 5 legislative days after the date on which the bill is submitted to Congress under subsection (b)(3)(B).

“(2) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the House of Representatives, the joint select committee bill shall be placed immediately on the appropriate calendar.

“(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—It shall be in
2 order, not later than 30 legislative days
3 after the date the joint select committee
4 bill is introduced in the House of Rep-
5 resentatives, to move to proceed to con-
6 sider the joint select committee bill in the
7 House of Representatives.

8 “(ii) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to
9 proceed to consider the joint select com-
10 mittee bill—

11 “(I) all points of order against
12 the motion are waived;

13 “(II) such a motion shall not be
14 in order after the House of Represent-
15 atives has disposed of a motion to
16 proceed on the joint select committee
17 bill;

18 “(III) the previous question shall
19 be considered as ordered on the mo-
20 tion to its adoption without inter-
21 vening motion;

22 “(IV) the motion shall not be de-
23 batable; and

1 “(V) a motion to reconsider the
2 vote by which the motion is disposed
3 of shall not be in order.

4 “(C) CONSIDERATION.—When the House
5 of Representatives proceeds to consideration of
6 the joint select committee bill—

7 “(i) the joint select committee bill
8 shall be considered as read;

9 “(ii) all points of order against the
10 joint select committee bill and against its
11 consideration are waived;

12 “(iii) the previous question shall be
13 considered as ordered on the joint select
14 committee bill to its passage without inter-
15 vening motion except 10 hours of debate
16 equally divided and controlled by the pro-
17 ponent and an opponent;

18 “(iv) an amendment to the joint select
19 committee bill shall not be in order; and

20 “(v) a motion to reconsider the vote
21 on passage of the joint select committee
22 bill shall not be in order.

23 “(D) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—In the House of
24 Representatives, the joint select committee bill
25 shall be agreed to upon a vote of a majority of

1 the Members present and voting, a quorum
2 being present.

3 “(3) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN SEN-
4 ATE.—

5 “(A) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon
6 introduction in the Senate, the joint select com-
7 mittee bill shall be placed immediately on the
8 calendar.

9 “(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
11 rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the
12 Senate, it is in order, not later than 30
13 legislative days after the date the joint se-
14 lect committee bill is introduced in the
15 Senate (even though a previous motion to
16 the same effect has been disagreed to) to
17 move to proceed to the consideration of the
18 joint select committee bill.

19 “(ii) PROCEDURE.—For a motion to
20 proceed to the consideration of the joint
21 select committee bill—

22 “(I) all points of order against
23 the motion are waived;

24 “(II) the motion is not debatable;

1 “(III) the motion is not subject
2 to a motion to postpone;

3 “(IV) a motion to reconsider the
4 vote by which the motion is agreed to
5 or disagreed to shall not be in order;
6 and

7 “(V) if the motion is agreed to,
8 the joint select committee bill shall re-
9 main the unfinished business until
10 disposed of.

11 “(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Senate pro-
13 ceeds to consideration of the joint select
14 committee bill—

15 “(I) all points of order against
16 the joint select committee bill (and
17 against consideration of the joint se-
18 lect committee bill) are waived;

19 “(II) consideration of the joint
20 select committee bill, and all debatable
21 motions and appeals in connection
22 therewith, shall be limited to not more
23 than 30 hours, which shall be divided
24 equally between the majority and mi-
25 nority leaders or their designees;

1 “(III) a motion further to limit
2 debate is in order and not debatable;

3 “(IV) an amendment to, a mo-
4 tion to postpone, or a motion to com-
5 mit the joint select committee bill is
6 not in order; and

7 “(V) a motion to proceed to the
8 consideration of other business is not
9 in order.

10 “(ii) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—In the Sen-
11 ate—

12 “(I) the vote on passage shall
13 occur immediately following the con-
14 clusion of the consideration of the
15 joint select committee bill, and a sin-
16 gle quorum call at the conclusion of
17 the debate if requested in accordance
18 with the rules of the Senate; and

19 “(II) the joint select committee
20 bill shall be agreed to upon a vote of
21 a majority of the Members present
22 and voting, a quorum being present.

23 “(iii) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON
24 PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions
25 of the Chair relating to the application of

1 this subsection or the rules of the Senate,
2 as the case may be, to the procedure relat-
3 ing to the joint select committee bill shall
4 be decided without debate.

5 “(4) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE
6 OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

7 “(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY
8 OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one
9 House of the joint select committee bill of that
10 House, that House receives from the other
11 House the joint select committee bill—

12 “(i) the joint select committee bill of
13 the other House shall not be referred to a
14 committee; and

15 “(ii) with respect to the joint select
16 committee bill of the House receiving the
17 resolution—

18 “(I) the procedure in that House
19 shall be the same as if no joint select
20 committee bill had been received from
21 the other House; and

22 “(II) the vote on passage shall be
23 on the joint select committee bill of
24 the other House.

1 “(B) TREATMENT OF JOINT SELECT COM-
2 MITTEE BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House
3 fails to introduce or consider the joint select
4 committee bill under this subsection, the joint
5 select committee bill of the other House shall be
6 entitled to expedited floor procedures under this
7 subsection.

8 “(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEAS-
9 URES.—If, following passage of the joint select
10 committee bill in the Senate, the Senate re-
11 ceives the companion measure from the House
12 of Representatives, the companion measure
13 shall not be debatable.

14 “(D) VETOES.—If the President vetoes the
15 joint select committee bill, consideration of a
16 veto message in the Senate under this sub-
17 section shall be not more than 10 hours equally
18 divided between the majority and minority lead-
19 ers or their designees.”.

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