To establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUIZENGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fiscal Commission Act
of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) Co-chair.—The term “co-chair” means an individual appointed to serve as a co-chair of the Fiscal Commission under section 3(a)(3)(C)(i).
(2) **Fiscal Commission.**—The term “Fiscal Commission” means the commission established under section 3(a).

(3) **Fiscal Commission Bill.**—The term “Fiscal Commission bill” means a bill consisting solely of legislative language that the Fiscal Commission approves and submits under clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B).

(4) **Outside expert.**—The term “outside expert” is an individual who is not an elected official or an officer or employee of the Federal Government or of any State.

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

(a) **Establishment of Fiscal Commission.**—

(1) **Establishment.**—No later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there is established in Congress a Fiscal Commission.

(2) **Duties.**—

(A) **Improve Fiscal Situation.**—

(i) **In General.**—The Fiscal Commission shall identify policies to improve the fiscal situation in the medium term and to achieve a sustainable debt-to-GDP ratio of the long term, and for any recommendations related to Federal programs
for which a Federal trust fund exists, to
improve solvency for a period of at least 75
years.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
clause (i), the Fiscal Commission shall—

(I) propose recommendations de-
dsigned to balance the budget at the
earliest reasonable date, including at
minimum stabilizing the debt-to-GDP
ratio at or below one hundred percent
by the end of the 10-year period be-
ginning on the date the Fiscal Com-
mission is established; and

(II) propose recommendations
that meaningfully improve the long-
term fiscal outlook, including changes
to address the growth of direct spend-
ing and the gap between the projected
revenues and expenditures of the Fed-
eral Government.

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

(B) Report, Recommendations, and Legislative Language.—

(i) In general.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(D)(ii)(II), not earlier than November 6, 2024, but not later than November 15, 2024, the Fiscal Commission shall meet to consider, and vote on—

(I) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Fiscal Commission described in subparagraph (A)(i) and the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office required under paragraph (4)(D)(ii); and

(II) legislative language to carry out the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission in the report described in subclause (I), which shall include a statement of the economic and budgetary effects of the recommendations.
(ii) Approval of report and legislative language.—A report and legislative language of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) 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 3 members of the Fiscal Commission appointed by members of the Republican Party and 3 members appointed by members of the Democratic party.

(iii) Additional views.—

(I) In general.—A member of the Fiscal Commission who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of the final Fiscal Commission vote on the approval of the report and legislative language of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) shall be entitled to 3 days to file those views in writing with the staff director of the Fiscal Commission.

(II) Inclusion in report.—

Views filed under subclause (I) shall
be included in the report of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and such inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report, except that, in the absence of timely notice, the report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) Report and legislative language to be made public.—Upon the approval or disapproval of a report and legislative language under clause (i) by the Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission shall promptly, and not more than 24 hours after the approval or disapproval or, if timely notice is given under clause (iii), not more than 24 hours after additional views are filed under such clause, make the report, the legislative language, and a record of the vote on the report and legislative language available to the public.

(v) Submission of report and legislative language.—If a report and legislative language are approved by the Fis-
cal Commission under clause (i), not later
than 3 days after the date on which the re-
port and legislative language are made
available to the public under clause (iv),
the Fiscal Commission shall submit the re-
port and legislative language to the Presi-
dent, the Vice President, the Speaker of
the House of Representatives, and the ma-
ajority and minority leaders of each House
of Congress.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission
shall be composed of 16 members appointed in
accordance with subparagraph (B) and with
due consideration to chairs and ranking mem-
bers of the committees and subcommittees of
subject matter jurisdiction, if applicable.

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 14
days after the date described in paragraph
(1)—

(i) the majority leader of the Senate
shall appoint 3 individuals from among the
Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-
pert, who shall serve as members of the
Fiscal Commission;
(ii) the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the Senate, and 1 outside expert who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission;

(iii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the House of Representatives, and 1 outside expert, who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission; and

(iv) the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the House of Representatives, and 1 outside expert, who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days after the date described in paragraph (1), with respect to the Fiscal Commission—

(I) the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives of the same political party as the President
shall appoint 1 individual from among
the members of the Fiscal Commis-
sion who shall serve as a co-chair of
the Fiscal Commission; and

(II) the leadership of the Senate
and House of Representatives of the
opposite political party as the Presi-
dent, shall appoint 1 individual from
among the members of the Fiscal
Commission who shall serve as a co-
chair of the Fiscal Commission.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—With respect
to the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of
the Fiscal Commission, acting jointly, shall
hire the staff director of the Fiscal Com-
mission.

(D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

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

(ii) VACANCY.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy
in the Fiscal Commission shall not af-
fect the powers of the Fiscal Com-
mission, but shall be filled not later than
14 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

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

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

(bb) a vacancy in the Fiscal Commission exists.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, to enable the Fiscal Commission to exercise the powers, functions, and duties of the Fiscal Commission, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the Fiscal Commission approved by the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission.
Commission, subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

(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)).

(C) QUORUM.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, 9 members of the Fiscal Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) VOTING.—

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

(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.—

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

to the Fiscal Commission—

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

(bb) information on the
budgetary effect of the legislative
language on the long-term fiscal
outlook.

(II) LIMITATION.—The Fiscal
Commission may not vote on any
version of the report, recommenda-
tions, or legislative language of the
Fiscal Commission under paragraph
(2)(B)(i) unless the estimates and in-
formation 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 Commiss-
ion.
(E) MEETINGS.—

(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 days after the date described in paragraph (1), the Fiscal Commission shall hold the first meeting of the Fiscal Commission.

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

(F) HEARINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Fiscal Commission considers advisable.

(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission shall
make a public announcement of the
date, place, time, and subject matter
of any hearing to be conducted under
this subparagraph not later than 7
days before the date of the hearing,
unless the co-chairs determine that
there is good cause to begin such
hearing on an earlier date.

(II) Written statement.—A
witness appearing before the Fiscal
Commission shall file a written state-
ment of the proposed testimony of the
witness not later than 2 days before
the date of the appearance of the wit-
ness, unless the co-chairs of the Fiscal
Commission—

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

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

(G) Technical assistance.—Upon writ-
ten request of the co-chairs of the Fiscal Com-
mission, the head of a Federal agency shall pro-
vide technical assistance to the Fiscal Commission in order for the Fiscal Commission to carry out the duties of the Fiscal Commission.

(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

(ii) shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(b) STAFF OF FISCAL COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff of the Fiscal Commission as the co-chairs determine necessary, in accordance with the guidelines, rules, and requirements relating to employees of the Senate.

(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 and requirements of the House of Representatives.

(c) Termination.—The Fiscal Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date the Fiscal Commission submits the report under subsection (a)(2)(B)(v).

SEC. 4. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL COMMISSION BILLS.

(a) Qualifying Legislation.—Only a Fiscal Commission bill shall be entitled to expedited consideration under this section.

(b) Consideration in the House of Representatives.—

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

(A) by the majority leader of the House of
Representatives, or by a Member of the House
of Representatives designated by the majority
leader of the House of Representatives, on the
third legislative day after the date the Fiscal
Commission approves and submits such legisla-
tive language; or

(B) if the Fiscal Commission bill is not in-
troduced under subparagraph (A), by any Mem-
er of the House of Representatives on any leg-
islative day beginning on the legislative day
after the legislative day described in subpara-
graph (A).

(2) Referral and reporting.—Any com-
mittee of the House of Representatives to which a
Fiscal Commission bill is referred shall report the
Fiscal Commission bill to the House of Representa-
tives without amendment not later than 5 legislative
days after the date on which the Fiscal Commission
bill was so referred. If any committee of the House
of Representatives to which a Fiscal Commission bill
is referred fails to report the Fiscal Commission bill
within that period, that committee shall be auto-
matically discharged from consideration of the Fiscal
Commission bill, and the Fiscal Commission bill
shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After
the last committee authorized to consider a Fiscal
Commission bill reports it to the House of Rep-
resentatives or has been discharged from its consid-
eration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to
consider the Fiscal Commission bill in the House of
Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order
after the House of Representatives has disposed of
a motion to proceed with respect to the Fiscal Com-
mision bill. The previous question shall be consid-
ered as ordered on the motion to its adoption with-
out intervening motion.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—The Fiscal Commission
bill shall be considered as read. All points of order
against the Fiscal Commission bill and against its
consideration are waived. The previous question
shall be considered as ordered on the Fiscal Com-
mision bill to its passage without intervening mo-
tion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and
controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

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

(c) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—**

(1) **INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—** If the
Fiscal Commission approves and submits legislative
language under clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of
section 3(a)(2)(B), a Fiscal Commission bill con-
sisting solely of that legislative language may be in-
troduced in the Senate (by request)—

(A) by the majority leader of the Senate,
or by a Member of the Senate designated by the
majority leader of the Senate, on the next day
on which the Senate is in session; or

(B) if the Fiscal Commission bill is not in-
troduced under subparagraph (A), by any Mem-
ber of the Senate on any day on which the Sen-
ate is in session beginning on the day after the
day described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—** A Fiscal
Commission bill introduced in the Senate under
paragraph (1) shall be jointly referred to the com-
mittee or committees of jurisdiction, which commit-
tees shall report the Fiscal Commission bill without
any revision and with a favorable recommendation,
an unfavorable recommendation, or without rec-
ommendation, not later than 5 session days after the date on which the Fiscal Commission bill was so referred. If any committee to which a Fiscal Commission bill is referred fails to report the Fiscal Commission bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill, and the Fiscal Commission bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) PROCEEDING.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which a Fiscal Commission bill is reported or discharged from all committees to which the Fiscal Commission bill was referred, for the majority leader of the Senate or the designee of the majority leader to move to proceed to the consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill. It shall also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the Fiscal Commission bill are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject
to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the
vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed
to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to
the consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill is
agreed to, the Fiscal Commission bill shall remain
the unfinished business until disposed of. All points
of order against a Fiscal Commission bill and
against consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill
are waived.

(4) No Amendments.—An amendment to a
Fiscal Commission bill, or a motion to postpone, or
a motion to proceed to the consideration of other
business, or a motion to recommit the Fiscal Com-
mission bill, is not in order.

(5) Rulings of the Chair on Procedure.—
Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to
the application of the rules of the Senate, as the
case may be, to the procedure relating to a Fiscal
Commission bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) Amendment.—A Fiscal Commission bill shall
not be subject to amendment in either the Senate or the
House of Representatives.

(e) Consideration by the Other House.—

(1) In General.—If, before passing a Fiscal
Commission bill, a House receives from the other
House a Fiscal Commission bill consisting of legislative language approved by the same Fiscal Commission as the Fiscal Commission bill in the receiving House—

(A) the Fiscal Commission bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no Fiscal Commission bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the Fiscal Commission bill received from the other House shall supplant the Fiscal Commission bill of the receiving House.

(2) Revenue Measures.—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if a Fiscal Commission bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) Rules to Coordinate Action With Other House.—

(1) Treatment of Fiscal Commission Bill of Other House.—If a Fiscal Commission bill is not introduced in the Senate or the Senate fails to consider a Fiscal Commission bill under this section, the Fiscal Commission bill of the House of Representatives consisting of legislative language ap-
proven by the same Fiscal Commission as the Fiscal
Commission bill in the Senate shall be entitled to ex-
pedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN
THE SENATE.—If, following passage of a Fiscal
Commission bill in the Senate, the Senate then re-
ceives from the House of Representatives a Fiscal
Commission bill approved by the same Fiscal Com-
mission and consisting of the same legislative lan-
guage as the Senate-passed Fiscal Commission bill,
the House-passed Fiscal Commission bill shall not
be debatable. The vote on passage of the Fiscal
Commission bill in the Senate shall be considered to
be the vote on passage of the Fiscal Commission bill
received from the House of Representatives.

(3) VETOES.—If the President vetoes a Fiscal
Commission bill, consideration of a veto message in
the Senate under this paragraph shall be 10 hours
equally divided between the majority and minority
leaders of the Senate or the designees of the major-
ity and minority leaders of the Senate.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

Funding for the Fiscal Commission shall be derived
in equal portions from—
(1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and

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

SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this Act are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and, as such, the provisions—

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

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

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