



Reconciliation Instructions in the FY 2021 Budget Resolution

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The [budget reconciliation process](#) first requires Congress to pass a budget resolution, which provides reconciliation instructions to specific committees in the House and Senate. These instructions shape what Congress can include in the ultimate budget reconciliation bill.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Resolution

The Senate and House have released similar budget resolutions ([H. Con. Res. 11](#) and [S. Con. Res. 5](#)) that provide the relevant committees with reconciliation instructions to advance a COVID-19 relief package. In total, concurrent budget resolution will allow for approximately \$1.9 trillion in net spending via the budget reconciliation process. The FY 2021 budget resolution will also give House and Senate committees a non-binding February 16 deadline to submit reconciliation legislation to the House and Senate Budget Committees. After the Budget Committee in a chamber merges together the legislation from all committees with reconciliation instructions, the combined package can proceed to the floor under reconciliation procedures.

The FY 2021 budget resolution provides instructions to 12 House and 11 Senate committees. No committees beyond those listed can write legislation for the reconciliation package, and the committees listed cannot include provisions outside of their jurisdiction. The spending levels listed in the reconciliation instructions provide the ceiling for how much the provisions written by each committee can cost.¹ Once the bill comes to the Senate floor, the Senators cannot offer amendments that would cause the bill to violate the reconciliation instructions. (While the Senate amendment process is otherwise open, the House can restrict amendments.)

Jurisdictions of House and Senate committees do not match up exactly so the reconciliation instructions for similarly named committees can be quite different. The table on the following page lines up Senate committees with their House counterparts, noting where there is overlap with additional House committees. It also gives some general description of each committee's jurisdiction. The actual lines of jurisdiction in certain areas (e.g. healthcare) are quite complicated. Moreover, even if an issue is within a committee's jurisdiction, the provisions that the committee drafts still must comply with all other budget rules, including the Byrd Rule, or the provision can be struck down by a point of order on the Senate floor.

¹ A committee can include spending and revenue provisions totaling more than its reconciliation instruction if, within its jurisdiction, it also finds sufficient spending cuts or revenue increases to bring the net change to the deficit within the cap.

Reconciliation Instructions by Committee

Senate Committee	Amount in billions	House Committee	Amount in billions
Finance² UI, EITC, CTC, CDCTC, paid leave credits, other tax credits and deductions, child welfare, TANF, Medicare, state and local government aid	\$1,296.5	Ways and Means UI, relief payments, EITC, CTC, CDCTC, paid leave credits, other tax credits and deductions, child welfare, TANF, Medicare	\$940.7
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)³ Healthcare, early childhood, child nutrition, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, student loans, worker safety, minimum wage, workforce development, employee benefits	\$305.9	Education and Labor Early childhood, child nutrition, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, federal student loans, worker safety, minimum wage, workforce development, employee benefits	\$357.9
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs⁴ Housing assistance, consumer financial protection, Federal Reserve, transit	\$89.3	Financial Services Housing assistance, consumer financial protection, private student loans, Federal Reserve, international financial institutions	\$75.0
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs DC, Postal Service, federal workforce, oversight	\$50.7	Oversight and Reform State and local government aid, DC, Postal Service, federal workforce, oversight	\$350.7
Small Business Small business loans and grants	\$50.0	Small Business Small business loans and grants	\$50.0

² Overlaps with the House Oversight and Reform Committee for state and local aid. Healthcare splits across the Senate Finance, Senate HELP, House Ways and Means, House Energy and Commerce, and House Education and Labor Committees, among others.

³ Overlaps with the House Energy and Commerce Committee for healthcare.

⁴ Overlaps with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for public transit.

<i>Senate Committee</i>	<i>Amount in billions</i>	<i>House Committee</i>	<i>Amount in billions</i>
Commerce, Science, and Transportation⁵ Aviation, rail, broadband	\$35.9	Energy and Commerce Healthcare, medical research, drug safety, broadband, cybersecurity	\$188.5
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry⁶ Nutrition assistance, child nutrition, farm aid	\$22.7	Agriculture Nutrition assistance, farm aid	\$16.1
Veterans' Affairs Veterans Health Administration and other veterans benefits	\$17.0	Veterans' Affairs Veterans Health Administration and other veterans benefits	\$17.0
Foreign Relations Foreign assistance, international financial institutions	\$10.0	Foreign Affairs Foreign assistance	\$10.0
Indian Affairs⁷ Native American programs, tribes	\$8.6	Natural Resources Native American programs, tribes, territories	\$1.0
Environment and Public Works⁸ Highways, water infrastructure	\$3.2	Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation, highways, rail, transit, water infrastructure	\$95.6
N/A	N/A	Science, Space and Technology	\$0.8
SENATE TOTAL	\$1,889	HOUSE TOTAL	\$2,103⁹

⁵ Overlaps with the House Transportation and Instructure Committee for transportation and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee for technology.

⁶ Overlaps with the House Education and Labor Committee for certain nutrition programs.

⁷ The Senate Indian Affairs Committee has jurisdiction for many Native Americans programs beyond the House Natural Resources Committee jurisdiction.

⁸ Overlaps with the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the environment.

⁹ The extra \$214 billion in House reconciliation instructions provides flexibility for how it writes its budget reconciliation bill. However, the final bill will still fall within the \$1.9 trillion Senate number.