

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. J. RES. 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced budget.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KYL, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. HELMS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRAMM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. THOMAS) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced budget.

1        *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-  
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-

1 stitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes  
2 as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legisla-  
3 tures of three-fourths of the several States within seven  
4 years after the date of its submission to the States for  
5 ratification:

6 “ARTICLE —

7 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
8 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-  
9 fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall  
10 provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts  
11 by a rollcall vote.

12 “SECTION 2. The limit on the debt of the United  
13 States held by the public shall not be increased, unless  
14 three-fifths of the whole number of each House shall pro-  
15 vide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.

16 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
17 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
18 United States Government for that fiscal year, in which  
19 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

20 “SECTION 4. No bill to increase revenue shall become  
21 law unless approved by a majority of the whole number  
22 of each House by a rollcall vote.

23 “SECTION 5. The Congress may waive the provisions  
24 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
25 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be

1 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is  
2 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and  
3 serious military threat to national security and is so de-  
4 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the  
5 whole number of each House, which becomes law.

6       “SECTION 6. The Congress shall enforce and imple-  
7 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely  
8 on estimates of outlays and receipts.

9       “SECTION 7. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
10 of the United States Government except those derived  
11 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of  
12 the United States Government except for those for repay-  
13 ment of debt principal.

14       “SECTION 8. This article shall take effect beginning  
15 with fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year begin-  
16 ning after its ratification, whichever is later.”.

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