

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 73

Proposing a spending limit amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2011

Mr. AMASH (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. WOODALL) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a spending limit amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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-*
 5 *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*
 6 *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*
 7 *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*

1 States within seven years after the date of its submission
2 for ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for a year shall not exceed
5 the average annual revenue collected in the three prior
6 years, adjusted in proportion to changes in population and
7 inflation. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the
8 United States except those for payment of debt, and rev-
9 enue shall include all revenue of the United States except
10 that derived from borrowing.

11 “SECTION 2. Three-fourths of the whole number of
12 each House of Congress may by roll call vote declare an
13 emergency and provide by law for specific outlays in excess
14 of the limit in section 1. The declaration shall specify rea-
15 sons for the emergency designation and shall limit the pe-
16 riod in which outlays may exceed the limit in section 1
17 to no longer than one year.

18 “SECTION 3. All revenue in excess of outlays shall
19 reduce the debt of the United States. Upon the retirement
20 of such debt, revenue in excess of outlays shall be held
21 by the Treasury to be used as specified in section 2.

22 “SECTION 4. The Congress shall have power to en-
23 force and implement this article by appropriate legislation.

24 “SECTION 5. This article shall take effect in the first
25 year beginning at least 90 days following ratification, ex-

1 cept that outlays shall not surpass the sum of the limit
2 described in section 1 and the following portion of the
3 prior year's outlays exceeding that limit (excepting emer-
4 gency outlays as provided for in section 2): nine-tenths
5 in the first year, eight-ninths in the second, seven-eighths
6 in the third, six-sevenths in the fourth, five-sixths in the
7 fifth, four-fifths in the sixth, three-fourths in the seventh,
8 two-thirds in the eighth, one-half in the ninth, and the
9 limit shall bind in the tenth year and thereafter.”.

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