

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 139

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring
a balanced budget for the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2026

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona submitted the following joint resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
States requiring a balanced budget for the Federal Gov-
ernment.

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*
8 *States:*

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Total expenditures for a year shall not
3 exceed the average annual receipts collected in the three
4 prior years, adjusted in proportion to the changes in the
5 population of citizens of the United States and inflation.
6 Total expenditures shall include all expenditures of the
7 United States except those for payment of debt, and re-
8 cepts shall include all receipts of the United States except
9 those derived from borrowing.

10 “SECTION 2. Congress may by a roll call vote of two-
11 thirds of each House provide by law for specific expendi-
12 tures in excess of the limit in section 1.

13 “SECTION 3. Congress may by a roll call vote provide
14 by law for specific expenditures in excess of the limit in
15 section 1 for any year in which a declaration of war is
16 in effect.

17 “SECTION 4. Any bill to levy a new tax or to increase
18 the rate of any tax shall not become law unless approved
19 by two-thirds of the whole number of each House of Con-
20 gress by a roll call vote.

21 “SECTION 5. Congress shall enforce and implement
22 this article by appropriate legislation.

23 “SECTION 6. This article shall take effect with the
24 fifth year beginning after ratification.”.

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