

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 50

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Mr. POMEROY introduced the following joint resolution; which was 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-  
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 within seven years after the date of its submission  
9       for ratification:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-  
4 fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall  
5 provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts  
6 by a rollcall vote.

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

11 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
12 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
13 United States Government for that fiscal year in which  
14 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

15 “SECTION 4. Congress may waive the provisions of  
16 this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration of  
17 war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be  
18 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States faces  
19 an imminent and serious military threat to national secu-  
20 rity and is so declared by a joint resolution which becomes  
21 law. The provisions may be waived for any fiscal year in  
22 which the President certifies to Congress and Congress af-  
23 firms by a joint resolution that the United States is experi-  
24 encing an economic recession.

1       “SECTION 5. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
2 of the United States except those derived from borrowing  
3 and total outlays shall include all outlays of the United  
4 States except those for the repayment of debt principal.  
5 Total receipts shall not include receipts (including attrib-  
6 utable interest) for the financing of benefits and adminis-  
7 trative expenses of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors  
8 Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insur-  
9 ance Trust Fund, or any successor funds, and total out-  
10 lays shall not include outlays for disbursement of the Fed-  
11 eral Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund for ben-  
12 efits and administrative expenses and the Federal Disabil-  
13 ity Insurance Trust Fund for benefits and administrative  
14 expenses, or any successor funds. The receipts and outlays  
15 referred to in the preceding sentence shall be limited to  
16 receipts and outlays that provide old-age and survivor cash  
17 benefits for individuals based upon their earnings and de-  
18 pendants of such earners or provide disability cash bene-  
19 fits for disabled individuals based upon their earning and  
20 dependents of such earners.

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

1       “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning  
2 with fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year begin-  
3 ning after its ratification, whichever is later.”

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