

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 53

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 1997

Mr. POSHARD introduced 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 relating to a Federal 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 of the United States may
3 not exceed total receipts of the United States for that
4 year, unless three-fifths of the whole number of each
5 House of Congress shall provide for a specific excess of
6 outlays over receipts.

7 “SECTION 2. Total receipts shall include all receipts
8 of the United States except those derived from borrowing
9 or retirement trust funds. Total outlays shall include all
10 outlays of the United States except those for retirement
11 trust funds or repayment of debt principal.

12 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President
13 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the
14 United States Government in which total outlays do not
15 exceed total receipts, consistent with the provisions of this
16 Article.

17 “SECTION 4. The Congress may waive the provisions
18 of this Article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
19 of war is in effect.

20 “SECTION 5. All votes taken by the House of Rep-
21 resentatives or the Senate under this Article shall be roll-
22 call votes.

23 “SECTION 6. Congress shall enforce and implement
24 this Article by appropriate legislation.

1 “SECTION 7. This Article shall take effect for the sec-
2 ond fiscal year beginning after its ratification, but, if there
3 is a Federal budget deficit for the first fiscal year begin-
4 ning after its ratification, then, during the next five fiscal
5 years, the annual budget deficit may not exceed the follow-
6 ing per centums of that budget deficit for each of those
7 years as follows: eighty per centum during the first year
8 to which this Article applies, sixty per centum during the
9 second year, forty per centum during the third year, twen-
10 ty per centum during the fourth year, and zero per centum
11 during the fifth such year.”.

○