

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 7

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. ARCHER (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. GRAHAM) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing a balanced budget 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*
8 *States within seven years after the date of its submission*
9 *for ratification:*

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Prior to each fiscal year, Congress shall,
3 by law, adopt a statement of receipts and outlays for such
4 fiscal year in which total outlays are not greater than total
5 receipts. Congress may, by law, amend that statement pro-
6 vided revised outlays are not greater than revised receipts.
7 Congress may provide in that statement for a specific ex-
8 cess of outlays over receipts by a vote directed solely to
9 that subject in which two-thirds of each House agree to
10 such excess. Congress and the President shall ensure that
11 actual outlays do not exceed the outlays set forth in such
12 statement.

13 “SECTION 2. Total receipts shall include all receipts
14 of the United States except those derived from borrowing
15 and total outlays shall include all outlays of the United
16 States except those for the repayment of debt principal.

17 “SECTION 3. The amount of Federal public debt as
18 of the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after
19 the ratification of this Article shall become a permanent
20 limit on such debt and there shall be no increase in such
21 amount unless two-thirds of each House shall have passed
22 a bill approving such increase and such bill shall become
23 law.

24 “SECTION 4. Congress may waive the provisions of
25 this Article for any fiscal year in which a declaration of

1 war is in effect. The provisions of this Article may be
2 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States faces
3 an imminent and serious military threat to national secu-
4 rity and is so declared by a joint resolution, adopted by
5 a majority of the whole number of each House, which be-
6 comes law.

7 “SECTION 5. This Article shall take effect for the fis-
8 cal year 2002 or for the second fiscal year beginning after
9 its ratification, whichever is later.”.

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