

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 53

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for a balanced budget for the United States Government and for greater accountability in the enactment of tax legislation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 1999

Mr. ISTOOK (for himself, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COX, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. TANCREDO) 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 provide for a balanced budget for the United States Government and for greater accountability in the enactment of tax legislation.

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*

1 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when  
2 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several  
3 States within seven years after the date of its submission  
4 for ratification:

5 “ARTICLE —

6 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
7 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-  
8 fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall  
9 by a rollcall vote provide by law for a specified excess of  
10 outlays over receipts.

11 “SECTION 2. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
12 of the United States Government except those derived  
13 from borrowing, and except for any surplus within the  
14 Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and  
15 the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund. Total out-  
16 lays shall include all outlays of the United States Govern-  
17 ment except for those for repayment of debt principal.

18 “SECTION 3. The limit on the debt of the United  
19 States held by the public shall not be increased, unless  
20 three-fifths of the whole number of each House shall pro-  
21 vide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.

22 “SECTION 4. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
23 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
24 United States Government for that fiscal year which con-  
25 forms to the requirements of this article.

1       “SECTION 5. No bill to increase revenue shall become  
2 law unless approved by a majority of the whole number  
3 of each House by a rollcall vote.

4       “SECTION 6. Solely to the extent necessary for addi-  
5 tional military funding, the Congress may waive the provi-  
6 sions of this article for any fiscal year in which a declara-  
7 tion of war is in effect, or in which the United States is  
8 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and  
9 serious military threat to national security and is so de-  
10 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the  
11 whole number of each House, which becomes law.

12       “SECTION 7. The Congress shall enforce and imple-  
13 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely  
14 on estimates of outlays and receipts.

15       “SECTION 8. This article shall take effect beginning  
16 with the first fiscal year beginning after its ratification.”.

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