

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 78

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following article is proposed as an amendment
4 to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
5 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-
6 tion if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the
7 several States within seven years after its submission to
8 the States for ratification:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Prior to each fiscal year, the Congress
3 and the President shall agree on an estimate of total re-
4 ceipts for that fiscal year by enactment into law of a joint
5 resolution devoted solely to that subject. Total outlays for
6 that year shall not exceed the level of estimated receipts
7 set forth in such joint resolution, unless three-fifths of the
8 total membership of each House of Congress shall provide,
9 by a rollcall vote, for a specific excess of outlays over esti-
10 mated receipts.

11 “SECTION 2. Whenever actual outlays exceed actual
12 receipts for any fiscal year, the Congress shall, in the en-
13 suing fiscal year, provide by law for the repayment of such
14 excess. The public debt of the United States shall not be
15 increased unless three-fifths of the total membership of
16 each House shall provide by law for such an increase by
17 a rollcall vote.

18 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President
19 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the
20 United States Government for that fiscal year in which
21 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

22 “SECTION 4. No bill to increase revenue shall become
23 law unless approved by a majority of the total membership
24 of each House by a rollcall vote.

1 “SECTION 5. The provisions of this article are waived
2 for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in ef-
3 fect.

4 “SECTION 6. Total receipts shall include all receipts
5 of the United States except those derived from borrowing.
6 Total outlays shall include all outlays of the United States
7 except for those for repayment of debt principal.

8 “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning
9 with the second fiscal year after its ratification.”.

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