

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 22

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CASE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. BERRY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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

1 States within seven years after the date of its submission  
2 for ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

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

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

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

17 “SECTION 4. No bill to increase revenue shall become  
18 law unless approved by a majority of the whole number  
19 of each House by a rollcall vote.

20 “SECTION 5. The Congress may waive the provisions  
21 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
22 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be  
23 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is  
24 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and  
25 serious military threat to national security and is so de-

1 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the  
2 whole number of each House, which becomes law.

3 “SECTION 6. The Congress shall enforce and imple-  
4 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely  
5 on estimates of outlays and receipts. The appropriate com-  
6 mittees of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
7 shall report to their respective Houses implementing legis-  
8 lation to achieve a balanced budget without increasing the  
9 receipts or reducing the disbursements of the Federal Old-  
10 Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal  
11 Disability Insurance Trust Fund to achieve that goal.

12 “SECTION 7. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
13 of the United States Government except those derived  
14 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of  
15 the United States Government except for those for repay-  
16 ment of debt principal.

17 “SECTION 8. This article shall take effect beginning  
18 with the later of the second fiscal year beginning after its  
19 ratification or the first fiscal year beginning after Decem-  
20 ber 31, 2009.”.

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