

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. J. RES. 78

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2010

Mr. BRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOYD, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HILL, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. NYE, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. COSTA) 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*

1 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several  
2 States within seven years after the date of its submission  
3 for ratification:

4 “ARTICLE —

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

10 “SECTION 2. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
11 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
12 United States Government for that fiscal year in which  
13 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

14 “SECTION 3. The Congress may waive the provisions  
15 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
16 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be  
17 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is  
18 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and  
19 serious military threat to national security and is so de-  
20 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the  
21 whole number of each House, which becomes law.

22 “SECTION 4. The Congress shall enforce and imple-  
23 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely  
24 on estimates of outlays and receipts. The appropriate com-  
25 mittees of the House of Representatives and the Senate

1 shall report to their respective Houses implementing legis-  
2 lation to achieve a balanced budget without reducing the  
3 disbursements of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors In-  
4 surance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance  
5 Trust Fund to achieve that goal.

6       “SECTION 5. Total receipts shall include all receipts  
7 of the United States Government except those derived  
8 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of  
9 the United States Government except for those for repay-  
10 ment of debt principal.

11       “SECTION 6. This article shall take effect beginning  
12 with the later of the second fiscal year beginning after its  
13 ratification or the first fiscal year beginning after Decem-  
14 ber 31, 2020.”.

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