

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 41

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself and Mr. BABIN) 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 “SECTION 5. No bill to increase or suspend the statu-
2 tory limit on the public debt shall become law unless ap-
3 proved by $\frac{3}{5}$ of the whole number of each House by a
4 roll call vote.

5 “SECTION 6. No bill to increase revenue shall become
6 law unless approved by $\frac{3}{5}$ of the whole number of each
7 House by a roll call vote.

8 “SECTION 7. The Congress may waive the provisions
9 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
10 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be
11 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is
12 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and
13 serious military threat to national security and is so de-
14 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the
15 whole number of each House, which becomes law. Any
16 such waiver must identify and be limited to the specific
17 excess or increase for that fiscal year made necessary by
18 the identified military conflict.

19 “SECTION 8. The Congress shall enforce and imple-
20 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely
21 on estimates of outlays and receipts, and which shall pro-
22 vide such criteria as may be necessary to carry out the
23 ban on the receipt of compensation by Members who serve
24 in a House of Congress that does not approve a budget

1 that is in compliance with section 1, as set forth under
2 section 4.

3 “SECTION 9. This article shall take effect beginning
4 with the second fiscal year beginning after its ratification.

5 “SECTION 10. A Senator or Representative may, in
6 a civil action in a court established by or under article
7 3 of this Constitution, obtain appropriate relief to enforce
8 this amendment.

9 “SECTION 11. Total receipts shall include all receipts
10 of the United States Government except those derived
11 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of
12 the United States Government except for those for repay-
13 ment of debt principal.”.

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