

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 79

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2015

Mr. HARDY 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 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-
4 fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress pro-
5 vides by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts
6 by a roll-call vote. Such total outlays do not include those
7 for repayment of debt principal and such total receipts
8 may not include those derived from borrowing.

9 “SECTION 2. Before each fiscal year, the President
10 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for such
11 fiscal year for the Government in which total outlays do
12 not exceed total receipts. If the President fails to perform
13 the duty imposed by this section, no Executive orders may
14 be issued until the earlier of the date on which the Presi-
15 dent corrects such failure or the first day of such fiscal
16 year.

17 “SECTION 3. The limit on the debt of the United
18 States held by the public shall not be increased unless
19 three-fifths of the whole number of each House of Con-
20 gress provides by law for such an increase by a roll-call
21 vote.

22 “SECTION 4. The Congress may waive this article for
23 any period during which the United States is engaged in
24 military conflict that causes an imminent and serious mili-
25 tary threat to national security and is so declared by a

1 joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole num-
2 ber of each House of Congress, which becomes law.

3 “SECTION 5. The Congress shall enforce and imple-
4 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely
5 on estimates of outlays and receipts.

6 “SECTION 6. Sections 1, 2, and 3 shall take effect
7 with the beginning of the third fiscal year beginning after
8 its ratification.”.

