

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 81

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2016

Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) 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:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year.

4 “SECTION 2. Prior to each fiscal year, the President
5 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the
6 United States Government for that fiscal year in which
7 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

8 “SECTION 3. 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 shall identify and be limited to the specific
17 increase for that fiscal year made necessary by the identi-
18 fied military conflict. Any increase in spending related to
19 any waiver provided by this section shall be offset by a
20 budget surplus within ten fiscal years of the end of this
21 waiver.

22 “SECTION 4. The Congress may waive the provisions
23 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
24 of national emergency is in effect, as so declared by a joint
25 resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole number of

1 each House, which becomes law. Any such waiver shall
2 identify and be limited to the specific increase for that
3 fiscal year made necessary by the identified national emer-
4 gency. Any increase in spending related to any waiver pro-
5 vided by this section shall be offset by a budget surplus
6 within ten fiscal years of the end of this waiver.

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

10 “SECTION 6. Total receipts shall include all receipts
11 of the United States Government except those derived
12 from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of
13 the United States Government except for those for repay-
14 ment of debt principal.

15 “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning
16 with the tenth fiscal year after its ratification.”.

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