

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 109

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide
for balanced budgets for the Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2017

Mr. DEFAZIO submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
States to provide for balanced budgets for the Government.

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 shall
5 provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts
6 by a rollcall vote. Such a law must include an adequate
7 increase in the debt limit for the specific excess of outlays.

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

12 “SECTION 3. The Congress may waive the provisions
13 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
14 of war is in effect by a rollcall vote. Any such waiver must
15 identify and be limited to the specific excess or increase
16 for that fiscal year made necessary by the identified dec-
17 laration of war. Such a declaration of war must include
18 an adequate increase in the debt limit for the specific ex-
19 cess of outlays.

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

23 “SECTION 5. Total outlays for the Federal Old-Age
24 and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Dis-
25 ability Insurance Trust Fund over 75 years shall not ex-

1 ceed total receipts for 75 years, unless three-fifths of the
2 whole number of each House of Congress shall provide by
3 law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts by a roll-
4 call vote.

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

10 “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning
11 with the fifth fiscal year beginning after its ratification.”.

