

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 15

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide for a balanced budget for the United States Government and for greater accountability in the enactment of tax legislation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide for a balanced budget for the United States Government and for greater accountability in the enactment of tax legislation.

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 if ratified*

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

4 “ARTICLE —

5 “SECTION 1. Prior to each fiscal year, the Congress
6 and the President shall agree on an estimate of total re-
7 ceipts for that fiscal year by enactment into law of a joint
8 resolution devoted solely to that subject. Total outlays for
9 that year shall not exceed the level of estimated receipts
10 set forth in such joint resolution, unless three-fifths of the
11 total membership of each House of Congress shall provide,
12 by a rollcall vote, for a specific excess of outlays over esti-
13 mated receipts.

14 “SECTION 2. Whenever actual outlays exceed actual
15 receipts for any fiscal year, the Congress shall, in the en-
16 suing fiscal year, provide by law for the repayment of such
17 excess. The public debt of the United States shall not be
18 increased unless three-fifths of the total membership of
19 each House shall provide by law for such an increase by
20 a rollcall vote.

21 “SECTION 3. Prior to each fiscal year, the President
22 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the
23 United States Government for that fiscal year in which
24 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

1 “SECTION 4. No bill to increase revenue shall become
2 law unless approved by a majority of the total membership
3 of each House by a rollcall vote.

4 “SECTION 5. The provisions of this article are waived
5 for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in ef-
6 fect.

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

11 “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning
12 with fiscal year 1995 or with the second fiscal year begin-
13 ning after its ratification, whichever is later.”.

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