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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 1

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. POE of Texas) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all

intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

"ARTICLE —

"SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless three-fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over receipts by a rollcall vote.

"SECTION 2. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed one-fifth of economic output of the United States, unless two-thirds of each House of Congress shall provide for a specific increase of outlays above this amount.

"SECTION 3. The limit on the debt of the United States held by the public shall not be increased unless three-fifths of the whole number of each House shall provide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.

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

"SECTION 5. A bill to increase revenue shall not become law unless three-fifths of the whole number of each

House shall provide by law for such an increase by a roll-call vote.

''SECTION 6. The Congress may waive the provisions of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security and is so declared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole number of each House, which becomes law. Any such waiver must identify and be limited to the specific excess or increase for that fiscal year made necessary by the identified military conflict.

''SECTION 7. The Congress shall enforce and implement this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely on estimates of outlays and receipts.

''SECTION 8. Total receipts shall include all receipts of the United States Government except those derived from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the United States Government except for those for repayment of debt principal.

''SECTION 9. This article shall take effect beginning with the fifth fiscal year beginning after its ratification.''.

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