

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 89

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida 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 estimated outlays of the operating
3 funds of the United States for any fiscal year shall not
4 exceed total estimated receipts to those funds for that fis-
5 cal year, unless Congress approves a specific excess of out-
6 lays over receipts by three-fifths of the whole number of
7 each House by a roll-call vote.

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 the fiscal year beginning
11 in that calendar year in which total estimated outlays of
12 the operating funds of the United States for that fiscal
13 year shall not exceed total estimated receipts to those
14 funds for that fiscal year.

15 “SECTION 3. No bill to increase revenue shall become
16 law unless approved by a majority of the whole number
17 of each House by a roll-call vote.

18 “SECTION 4. The Congress may waive the provisions
19 of this article for any fiscal year and the first fiscal year
20 thereafter if a declaration of war is in effect or if the Di-
21 rector of the Congressional Budget Office, or any suc-
22 cessor, estimates that real economic growth has been or
23 will be less than one percent for two consecutive quarters
24 during the period of those two fiscal years. The provisions
25 of this article may be waived for any fiscal year in which

1 the United States is engaged in military conflict which
2 causes an imminent and serious military threat to national
3 security and is so declared by a joint resolution, adopted
4 by a majority of the whole number of each House, which
5 becomes law, or if a presidential declaration of major dis-
6 aster is in effect.

7 “SECTION 5. Total estimated receipts of the oper-
8 ating funds shall exclude those derived from net bor-
9 rowing. Total estimated outlays of the operating funds of
10 the United States shall exclude those for repayment of
11 debt principal; and for capital investments. The receipts
12 (including attributable interest) and outlays of the Federal
13 Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the
14 Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund shall not be
15 counted as receipts or outlays for purposes of this article.

16 “SECTION 6. The Congress shall enforce and imple-
17 ment this article by appropriate legislation, which may rely
18 on estimates of outlays and receipts.

19 “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning
20 with the later of the second fiscal year beginning after its
21 ratification or the first fiscal year beginning after Decem-
22 ber 31, 2016.”.

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