

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 21

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2023

Mr. VAN ORDEN submitted 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 outlays for any fiscal year shall
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year. Total outlays
4 shall include all outlays of the United States except those
5 for payment of debt, and total receipts shall include all
6 revenue of the United States except that derived from bor-
7 rowing.

8 “SECTION 2. The Congress may by a roll call vote
9 of three-fifths of each House of Congress declare an emer-
10 gency and provide by law for specific outlays in excess of
11 the limit in section 1 with respect to a fiscal year.

12 “SECTION 3. The Congress may provide by law for
13 increasing revenue of the United States, except that de-
14 rived from borrowing, only by a roll call vote of a majority
15 of each House.

16 “SECTION 4. The limit on the debt of the United
17 States held by the public shall not be increased unless
18 three-fifths of each House of Congress provides by law for
19 such an increase by a roll-call vote.

20 “SECTION 5. The Congress may waive the provisions
21 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration
22 of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be
23 waived for any fiscal year in which the United States is
24 engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and
25 serious military threat to national security and is so de-

1 clared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the
2 whole number of each House, which becomes law.

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

7 “SECTION 7. Congress shall have power to enforce
8 this article by appropriate legislation.

9 “SECTION 8. This article shall take effect beginning
10 with the tenth fiscal year after its ratification.”.

○