

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 4

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative
to balancing the budget.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. LONG) introduced 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 relative to balancing the budget.

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 of the duly chosen and sworn Members of each House of
2 Congress by a roll call vote. For the purpose of deter-
3 mining any increase in revenue under this section, there
4 shall be excluded any increase resulting from the lowering
5 of the statutory rate of any tax.

6 “SECTION 5. The limit on the debt of the United
7 States shall not be increased, unless three-fifths of the
8 duly chosen and sworn Members of each House of Con-
9 gress shall provide for such an increase by a roll call vote.

10 “SECTION 6. The Congress may waive the provisions
11 of sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this article for any fiscal year
12 in which a declaration of war against a nation-state is in
13 effect and in which a majority of the duly chosen and
14 sworn Members of each House of Congress shall provide
15 for a specific excess by a roll call vote.

16 “SECTION 7. The Congress may waive the provisions
17 of sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this article in any fiscal year
18 in which the United States is engaged in a military conflict
19 that causes an imminent and serious military threat to
20 national security and is so declared by three-fifths of the
21 duly chosen and sworn Members of each House of Con-
22 gress by a roll call vote. Such suspension must identify
23 and be limited to the specific excess of outlays for that
24 fiscal year made necessary by the identified military con-
25 flict.

1 “SECTION 8. No court of the United States or of any
2 State shall order any increase in revenue to enforce this
3 article.

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

9 “SECTION 10. The Congress shall have power to en-
10 force and implement this article by appropriate legislation,
11 which may rely on estimates of outlays, receipts, and gross
12 domestic product.

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

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