

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. J. RES. 8

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for balanced budgets for the Government.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for balanced budgets for the Government.

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:

1   “ARTICLE —

2           “SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall  
3 not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless two-  
4 thirds of the whole number of each House of Congress  
5 shall provide by law for a specific excess of outlays over  
6 receipts by a rollcall vote.

7           “SECTION 2. Prior to each fiscal year, the President  
8 shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget for the  
9 United States Government for that fiscal year in which  
10 total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

11           “SECTION 3. The Congress may waive the provisions  
12 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
13 of war is in effect by a rollcall vote.

14           “SECTION 4. The Congress may waive the provisions  
15 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
16 of national emergency is in effect, as so declared by a joint  
17 resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole number of  
18 each House, which becomes law.

19           “SECTION 5. The Congress may waive the provisions  
20 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
21 of a natural disaster is in effect, as so declared by a joint  
22 resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole number of  
23 each House, which becomes law.

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

4       “SECTION 7. This article shall take effect beginning  
5 with the fifth fiscal year beginning after its ratification.”.

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