

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 24

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. AMASH (for himself, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. WALBERG) 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*

1 States within seven years after the date of its submission
2 for ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. Total outlays for a year shall not exceed
5 the average annual revenue collected in the three prior
6 years, adjusted in proportion to changes in population and
7 inflation. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the
8 United States except those for payment of debt, and rev-
9 enue shall include all revenue of the United States except
10 that derived from borrowing.

11 “SECTION 2. Congress may by a roll call vote of two-
12 thirds of each House declare an emergency and provide
13 by law for specific outlays in excess of the limit in section
14 1. The declaration shall specify reasons for the emergency
15 designation and may authorize outlays in excess of the
16 limit in section 1 for up to one year.

17 “SECTION 3. Congress shall have power to enforce
18 this article by appropriate legislation.

19 “SECTION 4. This article shall take effect in the first
20 year beginning at least 90 days following ratification, ex-
21 cept that outlays may exceed the limit in section 1 by the
22 following portion of the prior year’s outlays exceeding that
23 limit (excepting emergency outlays provided for by section
24 2): nine-tenths in the first year, eight-ninths in the second,
25 seven-eighths in the third, six-sevenths in the fourth, five-

1 sixths in the fifth, four-fifths in the sixth, three-fourths
2 in the seventh, two-thirds in the eighth, and one-half in
3 the ninth.”

