

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. J. RES. 159

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for bills increasing taxes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself, Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BROWBACK, Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee, Mr. BUNN of Oregon, Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CHRYSLER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. COOLEY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CREMEANS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FRISA, Mr. FUNDERBURK, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GOSS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HANCOCK, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HEINEMAN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. HORN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KLUG, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LAUGHLIN, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LIGHTFOOT, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARTINI, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MICA, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. NEY, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. PARKER, Mr. PAXON, Mr. QUILLEN, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. SCHAEFER, Mrs. SEASTRAND, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. SMITH of Washington,

Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. STUMP, Mr. TALENT, Mr. TATE, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TORKILDSEN, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. WALDHOLTZ, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. ZELIFF) introduced 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 require two-thirds majorities for bills increasing taxes.

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:*

10   “ARTICLE —

11           “SECTION 1. Any bill to levy a new tax or increase  
 12 the rate or base of any tax may pass only by a two-thirds  
 13 majority of the whole number of each House of Congress.

14           “SECTION 2. The Congress may waive section 1 when  
 15 a declaration of war is in effect. The Congress may also

1 waive section 1 when the United States is engaged in mili-  
2 tary conflict which causes an imminent and serious threat  
3 to national security and is so declared by a joint resolu-  
4 tion, adopted by a majority of the whole number of each  
5 House, which becomes law. Any provision of law which  
6 would, standing alone, be subject to section 1 but for this  
7 section and which becomes law pursuant to such a waiver  
8 shall be effective for not longer than 2 years.

9       “SECTION 3. All votes taken by the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives or the Senate under this article shall be deter-  
11 mined by yeas and nays and the names of persons voting  
12 for and against shall be entered on the Journal of each  
13 House respectively.”

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