

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Ritter offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the resolving clause, and insert:

That the Legislature of the State of Florida requests each member of the Florida delegation to the 108th United States Congress to support and vote to enact the Economic Recovery Act of 2003.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

Remove the entire title, and insert:

House Memorial

A Memorial to the Members of the Florida Delegation to the Congress of the United States, urging such members of Congress to support and vote to enact the Economic Recovery Act of 2003.

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WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 has proposed an economic growth and tax relief plan designed to strengthen the American economy, provide immediate and critical middle-class tax relief, provide financial aid to states and deliver critical help to unemployed citizens, and,

WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 will provide every American adult with an immediate \$300 tax cut and allow every American family to tax an additional \$300 for up to two children, providing a \$1200 tax cut for families of four, and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Chamber of Commerce reported that the number of small businesses offering health insurance has dropped from 91% in 1999 to 76% today, forcing many Floridians to go without health insurance, and,

WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 provides much needed assistance to small businesses by allowing small businesses to take a 50% tax credit to offset their health insurance costs, and,

WHEREAS, in many rural communities, the lack of access to broadband technology is hampering efforts to recruit high-wage, high-tech jobs, and,

WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 provides a 20 percent tax credit for businesses investing in broadband internet infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and,

WHEREAS, the additional costs of homeland security are draining local government budgets and without additional assistance from the federal government, many communities will be required to raise taxes on their citizens, and,

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56 WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 provides \$5
57 billion to states to help communities fund key homeland security
58 priorities, including funding for emergency planning, transit
59 security, fire communications systems, smallpox vaccine programs
60 and 25,000 new police, firefighters, EMT's and other first
61 responders, and,

62 WHEREAS, an additional \$6 billion will be provided to fund
63 the programs enacted in the No Child Left Behind Act, ensuring
64 that every classroom has a qualified teacher and providing
65 critical funding for after-school and summer school programs,
66 and,

67 WHEREAS, an additional \$29 billion will be provided to help
68 states with their budget priorities, including additional
69 funding for Medicaid shortfalls and highway infrastructure, and,

70 WHEREAS, the State of Florida is facing an estimated budget
71 deficit of between \$2 and \$4 billion, and stands to receive
72 funding, if proportioned by population, of approximately \$2
73 billion, from the Economic Recovery Act of 2003, and

74 WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Act of 2003 is fiscally
75 sound and will not accelerate current federal budget deficits,
76 which are already reaching record levels of over \$300,000,000
77 annually, NOW, THEREFORE,
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