

FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Budget

576-02529-12

20127204

Senate Concurrent Resolution

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States to achieve and maintain a balanced federal budget.

WHEREAS, fiscal discipline and economic integrity have been core principles of American governance, and

WHEREAS, the American people have historically demanded the same prudent, responsible, and intellectually honest financial behavior from their elected representatives as ultimately compels individual behavior, and

WHEREAS, it is the firm conviction of the Legislature of the State of Florida that it is wrong to fund the prosperity of the present generation by robbing future Americans of their own, and

WHEREAS, mortgaging the birthright of our children and grandchildren is a dangerous departure from traditional American values which threatens to permanently undermine the strength of our nation, and

WHEREAS, during 2011, the national debt grew by almost \$1.2 trillion, and as of January 3, 2012, the total public debt outstanding for the United States was \$15,226,217,488,652.33, and

WHEREAS, Congress has voted to raise the debt limit 11 times since 2001, and

WHEREAS, our debt is owed increasingly to the governments of foreign nations, not to the citizens of the United States; therefore, our wealth is transferred to others and will not be

576-02529-12

20127204

30 available to supply the means for America's future growth and  
31 prosperity, and

32 WHEREAS, this generation will bequeath to its children one  
33 of the world's most indebted industrial democracies, and

34 WHEREAS, high federal deficits cause increasingly high  
35 payments for debt interest in the future, make future borrowing  
36 more costly, reduce investment activity, and thus reduce the  
37 size of the future economy, and

38 WHEREAS, the people of Florida recognized the wisdom of  
39 fiscal discipline and enshrined in its State Constitution the  
40 requirement for a balanced budget to place a prudent limit on  
41 the tendencies of government, and

42 WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has made fiscally  
43 responsible decisions, maintaining a balanced budget and saving  
44 the citizens of this state from crippling deficits, massive debt  
45 burdens, and bankruptcy, and

46 WHEREAS, we the Legislature of the State of Florida call  
47 for the Constitution of the United States to be amended to  
48 require the Federal Government to operate with fiscal  
49 responsibility, common sense, and within the revenues granted to  
50 it by the people, and

51 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has for too long relied on  
52 revenue increases and borrowing against our future, rather than  
53 on prudent spending decisions within the limits of current  
54 revenues, and

55 WHEREAS, lasting resolution of this nation's budget deficit  
56 will be achieved only by addressing the spending habits of our  
57 Federal Government, not by increasing the tax burden under which  
58 our citizens already labor, and

576-02529-12

20127204

59 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
60 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application  
61 of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling  
62 a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all  
63 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-  
64 fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-  
65 fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification  
66 may be proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

67  
68 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House  
69 of Representatives Concurring:

70  
71 That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due  
72 respect and great reluctance, does hereby make application to  
73 the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the  
74 Constitution of the United States to call a convention for the  
75 sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
76 the United States to achieve and maintain a balanced budget by,  
77 among other things:

78 (1) Requiring that total outlays not exceed total receipts  
79 for any fiscal year;

80 (2) Requiring the setting of a fiscal year total outlay  
81 limit;

82 (3) Prohibiting increases in taxes or other revenue  
83 sources;

84 (4) Providing that, for reasons other than war or military  
85 conflict, the limits of this amendment may be waived by law for  
86 any fiscal year if approved by at least two-thirds of both  
87 houses of Congress;

576-02529-12

20127204

88 (5) Allowing for provisions of the amendment to take effect  
89 within specified time periods;

90 (6) Providing for the waiver of the provisions of the  
91 amendment for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is  
92 in effect or the United States is engaged in military conflict  
93 that causes an imminent and serious military threat to national  
94 security; and

95 (7) Allowing for congressional enforcement.

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution  
97 supersedes all previous memorials and concurrent resolutions  
98 applying to the Congress of the United States to call a  
99 convention for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget  
100 amendment to the Constitution of the United States, including  
101 Senate Memorial 234 and House Memorial 2801, both passed in  
102 1976, and were superseded, revoked, and withdrawn in 1988 by  
103 Senate Memorial 302, and Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, passed  
104 in 2010, and that such previous memorials and resolutions are  
105 hereby revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the  
106 same effect as if they had never been passed.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution is  
108 revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same  
109 effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the  
110 date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a  
111 convention or used in support of conducting a convention to  
112 amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose  
113 other than requiring a balanced federal budget.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this concurrent  
115 resolution be dispatched to the President of the United States  
116 Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of

576-02529-12

20127204\_\_

117 Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the  
118 United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each  
119 house of the several state legislatures.