

CS/HCR 8005

2012

1 House Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to call a
3 convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to
4 the Constitution of the United States to achieve and
5 maintain a balanced federal budget.

6
7 WHEREAS, fiscal discipline and economic integrity are core
8 principles of American governance, and

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

13 WHEREAS, it is the firm conviction of the Florida
14 Legislature that it is wrong to fund the prosperity of the
15 present generation by robbing future Americans of their
16 prosperity, and

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

21 WHEREAS, in the 12 months between November 30, 2010, and
22 December 1, 2011, the national debt grew by more than \$1.2
23 trillion, and as of December 1, 2011, the total public debt
24 outstanding for the United States was \$15,088,441,787,408, and

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

27 WHEREAS, our debt is owed increasingly to the governments
28 of foreign nations, not to the citizens of the United States;

CS/HCR 8005

2012

29 | therefore, our wealth is transferred to others and will not be
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 the 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 and maintained a balanced budget and saved
44 | the citizens of this state from crippling deficits, massive debt
45 | burdens, and bankruptcy, and

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

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

54 | WHEREAS, lasting resolution of this nation's budget deficit
55 | will be achieved only by addressing the spending habits of our
56 | Federal Government, not by increasing the tax burden under which

CS/HCR 8005

2012

57 | our citizens already labor, and

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

66 |

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

69 |

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

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

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

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

83 | (4) Providing that, for reasons other than war or military
84 | conflict, the limits of this amendment may be waived by law for

CS/HCR 8005

2012

85 any fiscal year if approved by at least two-thirds of both
86 houses of Congress;

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

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

94 (7) Allowing for congressional enforcement.

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

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

CS/HCR 8005

2012

113 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this concurrent
114 resolution be dispatched to the President of the United States
115 Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of
116 Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the
117 United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each
118 house of the several state legislatures.