

FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Fiscal Policy

594-03203-24

20247064pb

Senate Concurrent Resolution

A concurrent resolution applying to the Congress of the United States to call a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which would authorize the President of the United States to eliminate one or more items of appropriation while approving other portions of a bill.

WHEREAS, despite various efforts to control the explosive growth of federal spending, the President of the United States has had insufficient authority with respect to the budgetary process, and

WHEREAS, the federal budget has not been balanced for decades and, as of 2024, the national debt has increased to more than \$34 trillion, and

WHEREAS, presidents of both political parties have cited the need for greater presidential involvement in administering the budgetary affairs of the nation, including having the ability to veto line items from the federal budget, and

WHEREAS, in 44 states, the governor has the constitutional power to veto items of appropriation while approving other portions of a bill, and

WHEREAS, this power has been described by political scholars as a highly desirable one, and one which has had a positive effect on the operation of government, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States passed the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 to enable the president to control "pork barrel spending" in the federal budget, and

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30 WHEREAS, while the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 was in  
31 effect, the president used this authority 82 times to veto line  
32 items from the federal budget, and

33 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 was found  
34 to be unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court, thus  
35 requiring enactment of an amendment to the Constitution of the  
36 United States in order for line item veto authorization to be  
37 implemented, and

38 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United  
39 States, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of  
40 the several states, Congress shall call a constitutional  
41 convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the  
42 Constitution, NOW, THEREFORE,

43  
44 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 (1) That the Legislature of the State of Florida applies to  
47 Congress, under Article V of the Constitution of the United  
48 States, to call a constitutional convention limited to proposing  
49 an amendment to the Constitution which would authorize the  
50 President of the United States to eliminate one or more items of  
51 appropriation while approving other portions of a bill.

52 (2) That this application constitutes a continuing  
53 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of  
54 the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds  
55 of the several states have made applications on the same  
56 subject.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of  
58 Florida also proposes that the legislatures of the several

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59 states comprising the United States apply to Congress to call a  
60 constitutional convention for proposing such an amendment to the  
61 Constitution of the United States.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concurrent resolution is  
63 revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same  
64 effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the  
65 date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a  
66 constitutional convention or used in support of conducting a  
67 constitutional convention to amend the Constitution of the  
68 United States with any agenda other than to propose an amendment  
69 to the Constitution which would authorize the President of the  
70 United States to eliminate one or more items of appropriation  
71 while approving other portions of a bill.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this application be  
73 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
74 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
75 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the  
76 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the  
77 presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each  
78 state.