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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3960

04/25/2016 Authored by Hertaus; Dehn, R.; Drazkowski; Runbeck; Pugh and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration

1.1 A joint resolution

1.2 making a formal application to the Congress of the United States of America to

1.3 call an amendment convention for the sole purpose of proposing for ratification an

1.4 amendment to the Constitution which requires a balanced federal budget.

1.5 WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is a sovereign Union member of the United States

1.6 of America; and

1.7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides that "the United States shall

1.8 guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government"; and

1.9 WHEREAS, the fiscal and financial integrity of the federal government is necessary in

1.10 order that the United States can fulfill its duties and obligations to the several States according

1.11 to the Constitution of the United States; and

1.12 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has permitted the national debt to threaten

1.13 the financial integrity and solvency of the Federal government of these United States; and

1.14 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States mandates that upon the

1.15 "Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States" Congress "shall call a

1.16 Convention for proposing Amendments"; and

1.17 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota deems an amendment to the United

1.18 States Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget is necessary for the general welfare and

1.19 the good of the citizens of Minnesota and the people of the several States; NOW, THEREFORE,

1.20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it applies to the

1.21 Congress of the United States to call an amendment convention limited to the sole purpose of

1.22 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that, in the absence of

2.1 a national emergency, the total of all Federal outlays made by the Congress for any fiscal year  
2.2 may not exceed the total of all estimated Federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with  
2.3 any related and appropriate fiscal constraints.

2.4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application is to be considered among the  
2.5 previously adopted balanced budget applications from other states, including but not limited to  
2.6 applications from the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia,  
2.7 Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada,  
2.8 New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South  
2.9 Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia; and that this application is intended to be  
2.10 aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two thirds of states necessary to require  
2.11 the calling of a convention by Congress for proposing a balanced budget amendment, but shall  
2.12 not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject.

2.13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application constitutes a continuing application in  
2.14 accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least  
2.15 two thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

2.16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of Minnesota is directed to  
2.17 prepare copies of this resolution and is hereby directed to transmit it to the Speaker and the Clerk  
2.18 of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United  
2.19 States Senate, the United States Secretary of State, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives  
2.20 in Congress, and to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several States,  
2.21 requesting their cooperation.