

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To apply to the Congress of the United States to call a convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the sole and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, that would provide for a balanced budget.

WHEREAS, the failure of the federal budget process has produced an enormous federal budget deficit, and growing national debt presently burdens the American people and threatens to burden their descendants for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the congressional practice of deficit spending and repeated raising of the ceiling on the federal debt has had the effect of endangering the jobs, incomes, retirement security, welfare, and future of American citizens; and

WHEREAS, such debt diverts scarce resources from crucial programs to pay interest on the national debt, constricts the ability of the federal government to address long-standing national problems and to respond to new needs, and increases pressures to raise taxes on the American people; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States provides that an amendment to the constitution may be proposed by congress, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, congress is required to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall become part of the constitution when ratified by three-fourths of the several states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby make application to the Congress of the United States to call a convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, to require that in the absence of a national emergency the total

of all federal outlays made by congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including but not limited to previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas; and that this application shall be aggregated with such applications for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention but shall not be aggregated with applications on any other subject.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted by the secretary of state to the president and the secretary of the United States Senate, to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of this state's delegation to the congress, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States, requesting their cooperation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application by this legislature supersedes all previous applications by this legislature on this same subject matter and that this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made application for a similar convention pursuant to Article V.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE