

REFERENCE TITLE: federal balanced budget amendment

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fiftieth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2012

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Introduced by

Representatives Mesnard, Seel, Stevens, Senators Barto, Lewis, Melvin,
Murphy: Representatives Dial, Fillmore, Goodale, Judd, Kavanagh, Olson,
Pierce, Proud, Robson, Yee

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE, AND TO SUBMIT TO THE
SEVERAL STATES FOR RATIFICATION, A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED
STATES CONSTITUTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the federal public debt now exceeds \$15 trillion, or \$50,000
2 for every man, woman and child in America; and

3 Whereas, the federal public debt now exceeds the gross annual output of
4 the entire United States economy; and

5 Whereas, this fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is
6 endangering economic opportunity now and for future generations; and

7 Whereas, the federal government's unlimited borrowing ability raises
8 serious questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of
9 government. The profound consequences for the nation and its people that
10 potentially could result from unchecked borrowing make it an appropriate
11 subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United States; and

12 Whereas, the Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate
13 responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional amendments with the
14 people, as represented by their elected state legislatures. Opposition by a
15 small minority has repeatedly thwarted the will of the people that a balanced
16 budget amendment to the Constitution be submitted to the states for
17 ratification.

18 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
19 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

20 1. That the Congress of the United States expeditiously pass and
21 propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification an
22 amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that, in the
23 absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made
24 by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated
25 federal revenues for that fiscal year.

26 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
27 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
28 the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the
29 State of Arizona and the Secretary of State and the presiding officer of both
30 houses of the legislature in each state in the union.