

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

IN THE HOUSE

January 10, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on State Administration.
February 9, 1979	Committee recommend bill, as amended.
February 13, 1979	Printed and placed on members' desks.
February 14, 1979	Second reading, do pass.
February 15, 1979	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 16, 1979	Third reading, passed.

IN THE SENATE

February 17, 1979	Referred to Committee on State Administration.
March 20, 1979	Committee recommend bill, concurred.
March 22, 1979	Second reading, indefinitely postponed, as amended.

IN THE HOUSE

March 22, 1979	Returned from Senate, indefinitely postponed.
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*House* *Senate* *Ramsey* *Sales*  
JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *3* *Thorn*

INTRODUCED BY *Markus* *Conroy* *Wegrich*  
*Kropf* *Rohr* *Schultz* *Bergquist* *Johnston* *Levin* *Stinson* *Muller*  
*Ellison* *Ernst* *Just* *Kandutsch* *Sheran*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA CALLING FOR THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AND SUBMIT TO THE STATES AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES REQUIRING, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET AND ALTERNATIVELY PETITIONING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO REQUIRE, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes more deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues; and  
WHEREAS, convinced that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, with the inflation that results from this policy, is the greatest threat that faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is vital to bring the fiscal discipline needed to restore financial responsibility; and  
WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the

United States, amendments to the federal Constitution may be proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both houses deem it necessary or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states that the Congress shall call a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments which shall be valid to all intents and purposes when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the Congress of the United States is hereby requested to propose and submit to the states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which would require that, in the absence of a national emergency, the federal budget be balanced each fiscal year within 4 years after the amendment is ratified by the various states.

(2) That, alternatively, this body respectfully petitions the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget and to make certain exceptions with respect thereto.

(3) That this application by this body constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the

1 Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds  
 2 of the legislatures of the several states have made similar  
 3 applications pursuant to Article V, but if Congress proposes  
 4 an amendment to the Constitution identical in subject matter  
 5 to that contained in this Joint Resolution, this petition  
 6 for a Constitutional Convention shall no longer be of any  
 7 force or effect.

8 (4) That this request be of no effect in the event  
 9 that such convention not be limited to the specific and  
 10 exclusive purpose of requiring a balanced federal budget.

11 (5) That as this application under Article V of the  
 12 Constitution of the United States is the exercise of a  
 13 fundamental power of the sovereign states under the  
 14 Constitution of the United States, it is requested that  
 15 receipt of this application by the Senate and the House of  
 16 Representatives of the Congress of the United States be  
 17 officially noted and duly entered upon their respective  
 18 records and that the full context of this resolution be  
 19 published in the official publication of both the Senate and  
 20 the House of Representatives of the Congress.

21 (6) That copies of this resolution be sent to the  
 22 Secretary of State and presiding officers of both houses of  
 23 the legislatures of each of the several states in the Union,  
 24 the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of  
 25 Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the

1 United States Senate, and to each member of the Montana  
 2 Congressional delegation.

-End-

Approved by Committee  
on State Administration

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

INTRODUCED BY MARKS, SPILKER, CONROY, WYRICK, KROPP, ROTH,  
SCHULTZ, BENNETT, JOHNSTON, STAIGMILLER, ELLISON, ERNST,  
KANDUCH, SCULLY, IVERSON, UNDE, FABREGA, NORDTVEDT, NATHE,  
THOFT, VINGER, FEDA, FAGG, LUND, SEIFERT, K. ROBBINS,  
HURWITZ, AZZARA, DONALDSON, LORY, MANUEL, MANNING,  
KVAALEN, UNDERDAL, LIEN, SMITH, BURNETT, PORTER,  
STOBIE, HAYNE, WOOD, GOULD, SIVERTSEN, KEYSER,  
PAVLOVICH, HENSTAD, RAMIREZ, SALES, MOORE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AND SUBMIT TO THE  
STATES AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES  
REQUIRING, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, A BALANCED FEDERAL  
BUDGET AND ALTERNATIVELY PETITIONING THE CONGRESS OF THE  
UNITED STATES TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR THE EXCLUSIVE AND  
SINGLE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE UNITED STATES TO REQUIRE, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, A  
BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes  
more deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and  
repeatedly exceed available revenues; and

WHEREAS, convinced that fiscal irresponsibility at the  
federal level, with the inflation that results from this  
policy, is the greatest threat that faces our nation, we  
firmly believe that constitutional restraint is vital to  
bring the fiscal discipline needed to restore financial  
responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the  
United States, amendments to the federal Constitution may be  
proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both houses  
deem it necessary or on the application of the legislatures  
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17 exclusive purpose of requiring a balanced federal budget ~~AND~~  
18 ALLOWING CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO.

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3 the House of Representatives of the Congress.

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7 the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of  
8 Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the  
9 United States Senate, and to each member of the Montana  
10 Congressional delegation.

11 ~~(7) THAT NO CONVENTION BE CALLED UNTIL FEDERAL~~  
12 ~~STATUTES BE ENACTED THAT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDE FOR A PROCESS~~  
13 ~~BY WHICH THE CONVENTION BE CONDUCTED AND THE MANNER BY WHICH~~  
14 ~~THE CONVENTION'S SUBJECT MATTER MAY BE DELINEATED,~~  
15 ~~RESTRICTED, DELIBERATED, AND VOTED UPON.~~

-End-

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2 INTRODUCED BY MARKS, SPILKER, CONROY, MYRICK, KROPP, ROTH,  
 3 SCHULTZ, BENNETT, JOHNSTON, STAIGMILLER, ELLISON, ERNST,  
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 5 THOFT, VINGER, FEDA, FAGG, LUND, SEIFERT, K. ROBBINS,  
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