

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

Introduced by Fagg, et al.

1/28	Introduced
1/28	Referred to State Administration
1/28	First Reading
2/12	Hearing
2/18	Tabled in Committee

1 *House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9 *R. Vard*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *R. Vard* *B. Brown* *L. Vard*
 3 *R. Vard* *B. Brown* *L. Vard* *ORR* *Storall* *Bird*
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE CONGRESS
 6 OF THE UNITED STATES TO ADOPT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, *Twenty*
 7 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE STATES, TO REQUIRE, WITH CERTAIN *For*
 8 EXCEPTIONS, THAT THE FEDERAL BUDGET BE BALANCED OR TO CALL A *Session*
 9 CONVENTION FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING A BALANCED *For*
 10 BUDGET AMENDMENT. *Fisher*
 11 *Brayman*
 12 *TASH*

12 WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes more
 13 deeply in debt as its expenditures repeatedly exceed
 14 available revenue so that the public debt now exceeds \$3
 15 trillion; and

16 WHEREAS, the unified federal budget does not reflect
 17 actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays;
 18 and

19 WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence
 20 require that the budget reflect all federal spending and
 21 that the budget be in balance; and

22 WHEREAS, believing that the fiscal irresponsibility at
 23 the federal level is one of the greatest economic threats
 24 that faces our nation, the Legislature firmly holds that
 25 constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal

1 discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

2 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the
 3 United States, amendments to the federal constitution may be
 4 proposed by Congress whenever two-thirds of both houses
 5 consider it necessary or when, on the application of the
 6 Legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, Congress
 7 calls a constitutional convention for the purpose of
 8 proposing amendments.
 9

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

12 That the Congress of the United States of America is
 13 hereby petitioned to adopt an amendment to the Constitution
 14 of the United States, for submission to the states for
 15 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for
 16 each fiscal year, the President of the United States submit
 17 and Congress adopt a balanced federal budget or,
 18 alternatively, that, effective immediately, pursuant to
 19 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
 20 Legislature of the State of Montana make application to the
 21 Congress of the United States of America to call a
 22 constitutional convention for the exclusive purpose of
 23 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
 24 States, for submission to the states for ratification,
 25 requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal

1 year, the President of the United States submit and Congress
2 adopt a balanced federal budget.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

4 (1) That if Congress adopts, within 60 days after the
5 Legislatures of two-thirds of the states have made
6 application for a constitutional convention, an amendment to
7 the Constitution of the United States similar in subject
8 matter to that requested in this Joint Resolution, then this
9 application for a convention is no longer of any effect.

10 (2) That this application and request be considered
11 rescinded in the event that a convention is not limited to
12 the specific and exclusive purpose contained in this Joint
13 Resolution.

14 (3) That this application constitutes a continuing
15 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution
16 of the United States until at least two-thirds of the
17 Legislatures of the several states have made application for
18 a similar constitutional convention or until Congress has
19 proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the United
20 States, as described in this Joint Resolution.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send
22 copies of this Joint Resolution to the President of the
23 United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States
24 House of Representatives, to each member of this state's
25 Congressional Delegation, and to the presiding officer of

1 each house of each state Legislature in the United States.

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