

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

U.S. CONSTITUTION: Applies to congress under U.S. Const. Art. V to call a convention of the states to propose a U.S. constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget

1                                 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2 make application to the Congress of the United States to call a convention pursuant to  
3 Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America for the specific and exclusive  
4 purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission  
5 to the states for ratification, to require that in the absence of a national emergency the total  
6 of all federal outlays made by congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all  
7 estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate  
8 fiscal restraints.

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

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

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

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Harrison

HCR No. 70

Applies to the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution 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.

Provides that the application supersedes all previous applications by the La. Legislature on this same subject matter and constitutes a continuing application in accordance with U.S. Const. Art. V until the legislatures of at least 2/3 of the states have made application for a similar convention.