

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

2 INTRODUCED BY C. HARRIS

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION SUBMITTING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION
6 2, REQUIRING A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET, TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

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8 WHEREAS, the budget deficit for the federal government for fiscal year 2005 is currently estimated by
9 the Congressional Budget Office to be \$448 billion; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the national debt at the end of 2004 stood
11 at \$7.355 trillion and is projected to be \$7.975 trillion by the end of this year; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Budget Office, budget deficits for the federal government
13 may increase over the next 5 years; and

14 WHEREAS, the current national debt burdens each of the nation's 296 million citizens with an average
15 debt share of more than \$26,000; and

16 WHEREAS, since 2004, interest on the national debt has accumulated at an average rate of \$2.4 billion
17 a day, making debt service the third largest federal expenditure, behind military spending and entitlements; and

18 WHEREAS, after fighting a long and expensive war for independence, the national debt in 1791 was
19 about \$75 million, the approximate amount of debt that now accrues each hour; and

20 WHEREAS, critical government services and functions are compromised because tax revenue is
21 diverted to debt service; and

22 WHEREAS, the intent to produce balanced budgets at the congressional level has been demonstrated
23 through legislation such as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, officially the Balanced Budget and Emergency
24 Deficit Control Act of 1985; and

25 WHEREAS, a 1990 revision of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act changed its focus from deficit reduction
26 to spending control, demonstrating that eliminating deficits by statute has proven ineffective; and

27 WHEREAS, 49 states currently exercise the fiscal discipline demanded by constitutional requirements
28 to balance their budgets; and

29 WHEREAS, declaring bankruptcy is not an option for the United States of America.

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

3 That Congress is urged to enact Senate Joint Resolution No. 2, which provides:

4 SECTION 1. Total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year, unless
5 three-fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress shall provide by law for a specific excess of outlays
6 over receipts by a rollcall vote.

7 SECTION 2. Total receipts shall include all receipts of the United States Government except those
8 derived from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the United States Government except for those
9 for repayment of debt principal.

10 SECTION 3. Any surplus of receipts (including attributable interest) over outlays of the Federal Old-Age
11 and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds shall not be counted for purposes of
12 this article. Any deficit of receipts (including attributable interest) relative to outlays of the Federal Old-Age and
13 Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds shall be counted for purposes of this
14 article, and must be completely offset by a surplus of all other receipts over all other outlays.

15 SECTION 4. The limit on the debt of the United States held by the public shall not be increased, unless
16 three-fifths of the whole number of each House shall provide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote.

17 SECTION 5. Prior to each fiscal year, the President shall transmit to the Congress a proposed budget
18 for the United States Government for that fiscal year, in which total outlays do not exceed total receipts.

19 SECTION 6. No bill to increase revenue shall become law unless approved by a majority of the whole
20 number of each House by a rollcall vote.

21 SECTION 7. The Congress may waive the provisions of this article for any fiscal year in which a
22 declaration of war is in effect. The provisions of this article may be waived for any fiscal year in which the United
23 States is engaged in military conflict which causes an imminent and serious military threat to national security
24 and is so declared by a joint resolution, adopted by a majority of the whole number of each House, which
25 becomes law.

26 SECTION 8. The Congress shall enforce and implement this article by appropriate legislation, which may
27 rely on estimates of outlays and receipts.

28 SECTION 9. This article shall take effect the second fiscal year beginning after its ratification.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Secretary
30 of State in each other state and to the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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