

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

2 INTRODUCED BY M. ROSENDALE

3

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUBMIT TO THE
5 STATES FOR RATIFICATION A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES
6 CONSTITUTION.

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8 WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal government
9 expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the public debt of the United States is now
10 approximately \$16.6 trillion, or almost \$53,000 for each man, woman, and child; and

11 WHEREAS, the last balanced budget presented was in 1998 by President Clinton, who presented the
12 first balanced federal budget since 1969; and

13 WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require that the federal
14 budget should not be manipulated to present the appearance of being in balance while, in fact, federal
15 indebtedness continues to grow; and

16 WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is the greatest threat that faces our
17 nation, resulting in a lower standard of living, endangering economic opportunity, and jeopardizing national
18 security now and for the next generation; and

19 WHEREAS, the principal functions of the United States Constitution include promoting the broadest
20 principles of a government of, by, and for the people; setting forth the most fundamental responsibilities of
21 government; and enumerating and limiting the powers of the government to protect the basic rights of the people;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude,
24 with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is an
25 appropriate subject for limitation by the United States Constitution; and

26 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or
27 disapprove of amendments to the United States Constitution with the people of the several states, as represented
28 by their elected legislatures; and

29 WHEREAS, many states have asked Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the United
30 States Constitution to be submitted to the states for ratification, but Congress continues to fail to act.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the members of the Senate of the State of Montana request the members of the Congress of the
3 United States to expeditiously pass, and to propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an
4 amendment to the United States Constitution requiring, in the absence of a national emergency, that the total of
5 all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed the total of all estimated federal
6 revenue for that fiscal year.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United
8 States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for ratification of a balanced budget amendment
9 to the United States Constitution.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Majority
11 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members
12 of Montana's Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures of each of
13 the other states.

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