

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1997

345A0530

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ENGROSSED NO. **SCR2** - 1/28/97

Introduced by: Senators Staggers, Albers, Benson, Daugaard, Drake, Dunn (Jim), Everist, Hainje, Halverson, Ham, Hunhoff, Hutmacher, Johnson (William), Kleven, Lange, Munson (David), Reedy, Rounds, Shoener, Thompson, Vitter, and Whiting and Representatives Wick, Brosz, Cutler, Diedrich, Duenwald, Duniphan, Eccarius, Fischer-Clemens, Fitzgerald, Hassard, Kazmerzak, Konold, Lee, Lucas, Madden, McNenny, Monroe, Moore, Napoli, Pederson (Gordon), Peterson (Bill), Roe, Rost, Schrempp, Weber, Wetz, and Windhorst

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the passage of a balanced budget amendment to the
2 United States Constitution.

3 WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, and the federal
4 public debt is now more than five trillion dollars - or twenty thousand dollars for every man,
5 woman, and child in America; and

6 WHEREAS, continued deficit spending demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both
7 the federal executive and legislative branches to spend no more than available revenues; and

8 WHEREAS, fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering our standard of living,
9 destroying jobs, and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow raises questions about
11 fundamental principles and responsibilities of government, with potentially profound
12 consequences for the nation and its People, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the

1 Constitution of the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States vests the ultimate responsibility to approve
3 or disapprove constitutional amendments with the People, as represented by their elected State
4 Legislatures; and opposition by a small minority repeatedly has thwarted the will of the People
5 that a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution should be submitted to the States for
6 ratification:

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-second Legislature
8 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Congress
9 of the United States expeditiously pass, and propose to the Legislatures of the several States for
10 ratification, a reasonable amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring in the
11 absence of a national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress
12 for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota hereby
15 requests that the Congressional Delegation from South Dakota vote in favor of the
16 aforementioned amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
19 States, and each Member of the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.

1 **BILL HISTORY**

2 January 27 - Scheduled for hearing.

3 January 27 - Passed as amended, AYES 9, NAYS 0. S.J. 168