

State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

507L0403

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1020

Introduced by: Representatives Lange, Gillespie, Haley, Hargens, Kroger, Miles, Roberts, Sigdestad, Street, Thompson, and Van Norman and Senators Moore, Bartling, Hanson (Gary), Hundstad, Kloucek, Koetzle, Peterson (Jim), Sutton (Dan), and Two Bulls

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to submit to the states for ratification a
2 balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

3 WHEREAS, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as federal
4 government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue, so that the federal public debt
5 is now approximately \$7.6 trillion, or \$25,800 for each man, woman, and child; and

6 WHEREAS, the annual federal budget has risen to unprecedented levels, demonstrating an
7 unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government
8 to control the federal debt; and

9 WHEREAS, fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, resulting in a lower standard of living
10 and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation, is possibly the greatest
11 threat that faces our nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he
13 wrote, "The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it
14 imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of



1 government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and
2 morally bound to pay them ourselves."; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or
12 disapprove of amendments to the United States Constitution with the people of the several
13 states, as represented by their elected legislatures:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eightieth
15 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature of
16 the State of South Dakota requests the members of the Congress of the United States to
17 expeditiously pass, and to propose to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, an
18 amendment to the United States Constitution requiring, in the absence of a national emergency,
19 that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year not exceed
20 the total of all estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislatures of each of the several states
22 comprising the United States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for
23 ratification of a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.