



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0799/2
MPG:jld

2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

March 16, 2017 - Introduced by Senators KAPENGA, CRAIG, DARLING, HARSDORF, LASEE, MARKLEIN, NASS, OLSEN, STROEBEL, TESTIN, TIFFANY and VUKMIR, cosponsored by Representatives KNODL, BERNIER, AUGUST, BORN, E. BROOKS, DUCHOW, FELZKOWSKI, HORLACHER, HUTTON, JARCHOW, KATSMA, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, KOOYENGA, KREMER, KRUG, KUGLITSCH, KULP, MACCO, MURSAU, NEYLON, NYGREN, PETERSEN, PETRYK, RODRIGUEZ, ROHRKASTE, SANFELIPPO, SCHRAA, SKOWRONSKI, SNYDER, SPIROS, STEFFEN, STEINEKE, SUMMERFIELD, SWEARINGEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, VOS, WEATHERSTON and WICHGERS. Referred to Committee on Financial Services, Constitution and Federalism.

1 **Relating to:** application to Congress under the provisions of Article V of the
2 Constitution of the United States for a convention for proposing amendments
3 relating to a balanced budget.

4 Whereas, previous presidential administrations and Congress have allowed an
5 unprecedented amount of federal debt to accumulate, which currently exceeds \$20
6 trillion; and

7 Whereas, a report by President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal
8 Responsibility and Reform issued a warning on the debt levels, stating: "If the U.S.
9 does not put its house in order, the reckoning will be sure and the devastation severe";
10 and

11 Whereas, the Constitution of the United States does not currently require the
12 federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and

13 Whereas, members of both political parties and both houses of Congress have
14 called for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States to
15 no avail; and

1 Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States authorizes the
2 legislatures of the states to convene a convention for proposing amendments upon
3 the passage of 34 state resolutions; and

4 Whereas, 49 states, by constitution or statute, require a balanced budget; and

5 Whereas, the legislature of the State of Wisconsin supports the federal
6 government operating under a balanced budget; now, therefore, be it

7 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature of
8 the State of Wisconsin herewith respectfully applies to Congress, under the
9 provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a
10 convention for proposing amendments, for the limited purpose of requiring the
11 federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and, be it further

12 ***Resolved, That*** the secretary of state of the State of Wisconsin be, and is
13 hereby, directed to forward a proper authenticated copy of this resolution to the
14 President of the Senate of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives of the United States; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** this resolution constitutes a continuing application for a
17 convention for proposing amendments in accordance with Article V of the
18 Constitution of the United States until such a convention is convened on the same
19 subject or until the legislature of the State of Wisconsin rescinds this resolution.

20 (END)