

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 219

Session of  
1978

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INTRODUCED BY PITTS, ARMSTRONG, VROON, E. H. SMITH,  
E. Z. TAYLOR, McCLATCHEY AND PYLES, APRIL 12, 1978

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS,  
APRIL 12, 1978

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In the House of Representatives, April 12, 1978

1       WHEREAS, With each passing year this Nation becomes more  
2 deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed  
3 available revenues so that the public debt now amounts to  
4 hundred of billions of dollars; and

5       WHEREAS, Attempts to limit spending, including impoundment of  
6 funds by the President of the United States, have resulted in  
7 strenuous assertions that the responsibility for appropriations  
8 is the constitutional duty of the Congress; and

9       WHEREAS, The annual Federal budget repeatedly demonstrates  
10 the unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and  
11 Executive branches of the Federal Government to curtail spending  
12 to conform to available revenues; and

13       WHEREAS, The unified budget does not reflect actual spending  
14 because of the exclusion of special outlays which are not  
15 included in the budget nor subject to the legal public debt  
16 limit; and

17       WHEREAS, The "U.S. News and World Report" reported on

1 February 25, 1974, that of these nonbudgetary outlays in the  
2 amount of fifteen billion six hundred million dollars  
3 (\$15,600,000,000), the sum of twelve billion nine hundred  
4 million dollars (\$12,900,000,000) represents funding of  
5 essentially private agencies which provide special services to  
6 the Federal government; and

7 WHEREAS, Knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require  
8 that the budget reflect all Federal spending and that the budget  
9 be in balance; and

10 WHEREAS, Believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the  
11 Federal level, with the inflation which results from this policy  
12 is the greatest threat which faces our Nation, we firmly believe  
13 that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal  
14 disciplines needed to reverse this trend; and

15 WHEREAS, Under Article V of the Constitution of the United  
16 States, amendments to the Federal Constitution may be proposed  
17 by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it  
18 necessary; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, By the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of  
20 Pennsylvania (the Senate concurring) as follows:

21 Section 1. That procedures be instituted in the Congress to  
22 add a new Article XXVII to the Constitution of the United  
23 States, and that Congress prepare and submit to the several  
24 states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States,  
25 requiring in the absence of a National emergency that the total  
26 of all Federal appropriations made by the Congress for any  
27 fiscal year may not exceed the total of the estimated Federal  
28 revenues, excluding any revenues derived from borrowing for that  
29 fiscal year.

30 Section 2. That the proposed new Article XXVII (or whatever

1 numeral may then be appropriate) read substantially as follows:

2 PROPOSED ARTICLE XXVII

3 "The total of all Federal appropriations made by the Congress  
4 for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of the estimated  
5 Federal revenues for that fiscal year, excluding any revenues  
6 derived from borrowing; and this prohibition extends to all  
7 Federal appropriations and all estimated Federal revenues,  
8 excluding any revenues derived from borrowing. The President in  
9 submitting budgetary requests and the Congress in enacting  
10 appropriation bills shall comply with this Article. If the  
11 President proclaims a National emergency, suspending the  
12 requirement that the total of all Federal appropriations not  
13 exceed the total estimated Federal revenues for a fiscal year,  
14 excluding any revenues derived from borrowing, and two-thirds of  
15 all members elected to each House of the Congress concur by  
16 Joint Resolution, the total of all Federal appropriations may  
17 exceed the total estimated Federal revenues for that fiscal  
18 year."

19 Section 3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
20 the President of the United States, the chairmen of the  
21 Judiciary Committees of both the Senate and House of  
22 Representatives, the chairman of the Joint Committee on Budget  
23 Control of the Congress and to each member of the Pennsylvania  
24 Congressional Delegation.

25 Section 4. That copies of this joint resolution be  
26 transmitted to the Secretary of State and to the presiding  
27 officers of both Houses of the Legislature of each of the other  
28 states in the union, with the request that it be circulated  
29 among leaders in the Executive and Legislative branches of the  
30 several state governments; and with further request that each of

1 the other states in the union join in requiring the Congress of  
2 the United States to initiate a proposal to amend the  
3 Constitution of the United States in substantially the form  
4 proposed in this joint resolution.

5 Section 5. That this resolution shall become effective upon  
6 ratification.