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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 69

Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY VEON, DeWEESE, ITKIN, M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, BELARDI,  
EVANS, MIHALICH, STURLA AND MICHLOVIC, FEBRUARY 28, 1995

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
FEBRUARY 28, 1995

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A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to defeat the  
2 balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United  
3 States and for alternate measures if adopted.

4 WHEREAS, Congress is considering a constitutional amendment  
5 to balance the Federal budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Any balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of  
7 the United States will have a profound effect on the states and  
8 their budgets; and

9 WHEREAS, The likely additional burdens on state budgets as a  
10 result of Federal reductions include unfunded mandates, program  
11 elimination, reductions in matching rates, caps on entitlements  
12 and additional taxation by the Federal Government; and

13 WHEREAS, Any Federal tax increase may erode existing state  
14 tax bases; and

15 WHEREAS, To help balance the budget by 2002, Federal grants  
16 to states will be cut \$97.8 billion and other Federal spending  
17 that directly benefits the states by \$242.2 billion, according  
18 to the Department of the Treasury; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Office of Economic Policy, in the  
2 Department of the Treasury, Pennsylvania will be required to  
3 increase taxes an estimated 12.7% to cover projected across-the-  
4 board cuts in Federal grants to state governments; and

5 WHEREAS, Prior to any vote in Congress or by state  
6 legislators, the duly elected representatives of the citizens of  
7 this nation and each state in the union have the right to know  
8 the specific program funding cuts or reductions and possible  
9 direct or indirect fiscal or social ramifications which may  
10 result should the amendment pass; and

11 WHEREAS, The states will be better able to plan their own  
12 budgets if Congress would specify the program funding cuts or  
13 reductions and possible direct or indirect fiscal or social  
14 ramifications which will have a profound effect on state  
15 budgets; and

16 WHEREAS, The public has the right to know the specific  
17 program funding cuts or reductions and possible indirect or  
18 direct fiscal or social ramifications which may result should  
19 the amendment pass; and

20 WHEREAS, It is irresponsible for any duly elected official to  
21 favor, let alone vote, for any balanced budget amendment without  
22 having specific knowledge of program funding cuts or reductions  
23 and any possible direct or indirect fiscal or social  
24 ramifications; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the defeat  
26 of the balanced budget amendment due to the profound and  
27 possibly crippling effect it may have upon Pennsylvania and  
28 other states; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That if Congress should pass any balanced budget  
30 amendment, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly urges the

1 adoption of an amendment to the proposal that Congress must  
2 detail specific program funding cuts or reductions and conduct a  
3 study into the possible direct or indirect fiscal and social  
4 ramifications the balanced budget amendment will have upon each  
5 state prior to any consideration by any state for ratification;  
6 and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Congress to  
8 provide the above-mentioned information to each state regardless  
9 of the passage of any such amendment to the balanced budget  
10 amendment; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives will not take up  
12 consideration of the balanced budget amendment without a full  
13 review and analysis of the possible direct or indirect fiscal or  
14 social ramifications of the balanced budget amendment; and be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
17 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
18 member of Congress.