

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 323

H.P. 250 House of Representatives, February 10, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government  
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPBURN of Skowhegan.

Cosponsored by Representatives BOTT of Orono and BICKFORD  
of Jay.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING APPLICATION TO  
2 CONGRESS CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL  
3 CONVENTION TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO  
4 THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE A  
5 BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET  
6

7 WHEREAS, with each passing year, this nation be-  
8 comes more deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly  
9 and repeatedly exceed available revenues so that the  
10 public debt now exceeds hundreds of billions of dol-  
11 lars; and

12 WHEREAS, the annual federal budget continually  
13 demonstrates an unwillingness or inability of both  
14 the legislative and executive branches of the Federal  
15 Government to curtail spending to conform to availa-  
16 ble revenues; and

1           WHEREAS, unified budgets do not reflect actual  
2 spending because of the exclusion of special outlays  
3 which are not included in the budget nor subject to  
4 the legal public debt limit; and

5           WHEREAS, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence  
6 and plain good sense require that the budget reflect  
7 all federal spending and be in balance; and

8           WHEREAS, believing that fiscal irresponsibility  
9 at the federal level, with the inflation which re-  
10 sults from this policy, is the greatest threat which  
11 faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitu-  
12 tional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal  
13 discipline needed to restore financial responsibili-  
14 ty; and

15           WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution,  
16 Article V, the Congress, whenever two thirds of both  
17 Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amend-  
18 ments to the United States Constitution, or, on the  
19 application of the legislatures of two thirds of the  
20 several states, shall call a convention for proposing  
21 amendments which, in either case, shall be valid to  
22 all intents and purposes, as part of the United  
23 States Constitution, when ratified by the legisla-  
24 tures of three fourths of the several states, or by  
25 conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or  
26 the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the  
27 Congress; and

28           WHEREAS, we believe action on amendments to the  
29 United States Constitution concerning federal expend-  
30 itures to be vital; now, therefore, be it

31           RESOLVED: That this body respectfully applies to  
32 the Congress of the United States to call a conven-  
33 tion for the specific and exclusive purpose of pro-  
34 posing an amendment to the United States Constitution  
35 to require a balanced federal budget, except in time  
36 of declared war or when  $3/5$  of the elected members of  
37 each House agree; and be it further

38           RESOLVED: That this application by this body  
39 constitutes a continuing application in accordance  
40 with the United States Constitution, Article V, until  
41 at least two thirds of the legislatures of the sever-

1 al states have made similar application pursuant to  
2 Article V, but if Congress proposes an amendment to  
3 the United States Constitution identical in subject  
4 matter to that contained in this Joint Resolution,  
5 then this application for a constitutional convention  
6 shall no longer be of any force or effect; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED: That this application and request be  
9 void, rescinded and of no effect in the event that  
10 such convention not be limited to such specific and  
11 exclusive purpose; and be it further

12 RESOLVED: That this body propose that the legis-  
13 latures of each of the several states comprising the  
14 United States apply to the Congress requesting the  
15 enactment of an appropriate amendment to the United  
16 States Constitution; or requiring the Congress to  
17 call a constitutional convention for proposing such  
18 amendment to the United States Constitution; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED: That duly authenticated copies of this  
21 resolution be immediately sent to the Secretary of  
22 State and to the Secretary of the Senate and presid-  
23 ing officers of both houses of the legislature of  
24 each of the several states in the nation, the Speaker  
25 and the Clerk of the United States House of Represent-  
26 atives, the President and the Secretary of the  
27 United States Senate and to each member of the Maine  
28 Congressional delegation.

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