

Senate Joint Memorial 9

Sponsored by Senator BOQUIST

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to adopt proposed amendment to United States Constitution that requires balanced federal budgets and to submit amendment to state legislatures for ratification.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the Constitution of the State of Oregon and the constitutions of most other states require state government operating budgets to be balanced whereby current operating expenditures do not exceed current state revenues; and

Whereas the United States Constitution does not contain a similar balanced budget requirement; and

Whereas the federal government has operated at a deficit for 78 of the 108 federal fiscal years that have occurred since 1900; and

Whereas the accumulated debt of the federal government has surpassed \$10.6 trillion as of January 2009; and

Whereas the estimated population of the United States is 305,486,680, so each citizen's share of this debt is \$34,825.79; and

Whereas the national debt continues to increase at an average of \$3.41 billion per day since September 28, 2007; and

Whereas this level of national debt causes economic hardship for future generations of Americans and weakens the strength and economic health of our nation; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully requested to adopt an amendment to the United States Constitution that requires the federal government to enact balanced budgets in which federal operating expenditures do not exceed federal revenues unless the balanced budget requirement is suspended for a fiscal year by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of both houses of Congress, and to submit that amendment to state legislatures for ratification.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.