

Senate Resolution 245

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Miller of the 49th, Shafer of the 48th, Cowsert of the 46th and Chance of the 16th

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Congress to adopt a resolution proposing a balanced budget
2 amendment to the United States Constitution and to submit the same to the states for
3 ratification; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the gravity of federal debt and federal obligations was established early in
5 American history with deficits occurring only in relation to extraordinary circumstances,
6 such as war; and

7 WHEREAS, for much of the 20th century and into the 21st century, the United States has
8 operated on a budget deficit, including the 2010, 2011, and 2012 fiscal years, which
9 surpassed an astounding \$1 trillion in each fiscal year; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal debt is greater than \$16 trillion, a sum that if shared equally by each
11 person in America would be a burden of over \$45,000.00 per person, and yet the federal
12 government continues to accrue debt; and

13 WHEREAS, the higher the deficit, the more the government must spend on paying interest
14 on the debt; and

15 WHEREAS, compounding the debt problem is the use of deficit spending, which becomes
16 a responsibility for future generations of Americans to assume without their consent; and

17 WHEREAS, Congress has attempted to set budgetary restraints for itself in the form of a
18 balanced budget amendment, which won wide support in 1995, failing by only one vote in
19 the United States Senate; and

20 WHEREAS, many states have previously requested that Congress propose a constitutional
21 amendment requiring a balanced budget; and

22 WHEREAS, the growing burden of public debt is a threat to this nation's economic health,
23 and action must be taken to restore fiscal responsibility; and

24 WHEREAS, a balanced budget amendment would require the federal government to not
25 spend more than it receives in revenues and compel lawmakers to carefully consider choices
26 about spending and taxes; and

27 WHEREAS, by encouraging spending control and discouraging deficit spending, a balanced
28 budget amendment would help put this nation on the path to lasting prosperity; and

29 WHEREAS, in the meantime, Congress should take the appropriate steps to adopt for the
30 current year and subsequent fiscal years a balanced budget so that the nation will live within
31 its means and thereby allow us to begin to reduce our massive accumulation of debt; and

32 WHEREAS, every amendment to the Constitution, to date, has been proposed through
33 Congress before being ratified by the states, and previous movements to call an Article V
34 amending convention have driven Congress to act.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the
36 members of this body hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
37 propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States
38 Constitution providing that, except during a war declared by the Congress of the United
39 States pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution or other
40 national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations for a fiscal year may not exceed
41 the total of all estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year and also providing for a spending
42 limitation.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body respectfully request that the
44 Congress of the United States begin adopting balanced budgets starting with this fiscal year.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body request that their counterparts
46 in all 49 other states in the Union act upon an identical requesting resolution in a timely
47 fashion so that a unifying message shall be sent to the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests all the members of the Georgia
49 congressional delegation to testify before this body as to why the federal budget is not
50 balanced.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
52 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
53 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States
54 Congress, the governor of each other state of the United States, and all the members of the
55 Georgia congressional delegation with a request that this resolution be officially entered in
56 the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.