

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to SR 245:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Congress to adopt and to submit to the states a balanced budget  
2 amendment to the United States Constitution and to balance our current budget; and for other  
3 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, the United States has operated  
8 on a budget deficit, including the 2010, 2011, and 2012 budget years, which surpassed an  
9 astounding \$1 trillion in each budget 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, to date, every amendment to the Constitution has been proposed and passed by  
33 Congress and sent to the states for ratification, which is the preferred, precedential method  
34 of amending the Constitution, but other threats and movements to call an Article V amending  
35 convention have driven Congress to act.

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

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests Congress to pass a Balanced Budget  
45 Resolution that necessitates a roll-call vote with two-thirds' majority of each House of  
46 Congress in favor of passage of any bills to increase revenue.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests Congress to pass a Balanced Budget  
48 Resolution that necessitates a roll-call vote with two-thirds' majority of each House of  
49 Congress in favor of borrowing authorization to increase the limit on the debt of the United  
50 States held by the public.

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

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this General Assembly request their  
55 counterparts in all 49 other States in the Union to act upon an identical urging resolution so  
56 that a unifying message will be sent to members of Congress.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage of this resolution, the State of Georgia will  
58 serve as a model to other states.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
60 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the  
61 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States  
62 Congress, all members of the Georgia congressional delegation with a request that this  
63 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress  
64 of the United States of America, and the governors and secretaries of state of the other 49  
65 States of the Union.