

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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**By: Delegate Kopp**

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 1996  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

**2 Committee to Review the Impact of the Federal Balanced Budget Amendment**

3 FOR the purpose of calling for the creation of a legislative Committee to Review the  
4 Impact of the Federal Balanced Budget Amendment to determine the effect such  
5 an Amendment would have on the budget and programs of the State and local  
6 jurisdictions; providing for the membership and other technical aspects of the  
7 Committee; and generally relating to a Committee to Review the Impact of the  
8 Federal Balanced Budget Amendment.

9 WHEREAS, The Congress, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Article V of the  
10 Constitution of the United States, has proposed an Amendment to that Constitution,  
11 known as the Balanced Budget Amendment, and that proposed Amendment may come  
12 before the General Assembly of Maryland, which would have seven years in which to  
13 ratify it; and

14 WHEREAS, The General Assembly shares the concern of the Congress and  
15 citizens of Maryland regarding the high national debt and national budget deficit and the  
16 need to constrain and reduce that debt; and

17 WHEREAS, Some persons support an Amendment to the Constitution of the  
18 United States as the appropriate manner in which to constrain the national debt, citing  
19 the successful history of such provisions in state constitutions; and

20 WHEREAS, Other persons argue that such an Amendment is not the appropriate  
21 method for reducing the national debt and cite differences between the role of the public  
22 budgets at the national and state level, and the differences between the requirements in  
23 the proposed Amendment and the provisions of such amendments in the states, including  
24 the role of capital as well as operating fund budgets; and

25 WHEREAS, Maryland is among the top states in both grants received from the  
26 federal government and per capita federal employees and would, therefore, feel a  
27 disproportionate impact from drastic reductions in the federal budget that would be  
28 required to comply with the provisions of the proposed Amendment; and

29 WHEREAS, The actual impact of the proposed Amendment on the budget and  
30 programs of the State and local governments in Maryland, the economy of the State, and  
31 the impact on the citizens of our State have not been studied or evaluated as they should  
32 be prior to action on ratification; now, therefore, be it

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
2 Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate of Maryland are  
3 requested to appoint a Committee to Review the Impact of the Federal Balanced Budget  
4 Amendment on the State of Maryland, to review the impact of the proposed Amendment  
5 on Maryland, including the direct and indirect impacts on the State's economy and on the  
6 budgets and programs of the State and local jurisdictions, including the impact of both  
7 the federal deficit reductions and the public funding cuts and program eliminations  
8 necessitated by the Amendment, and the impact of reductions in direct non-State  
9 assistance, such as Medicare, on citizens of Maryland; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That the Committee be composed of members of the Senate and  
11 Houses of Delegates of the General Assembly, with each Chamber having aco-chair, and  
12 of representatives of both political parties, and shall be supported byappropriate  
13 Legislative and Executive Branch staff; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That the Committee conduct public hearings as appropriate and  
15 report on its findings to the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly no  
16 later than December 15, 1996. The findings should include the range of potential  
17 economic, budgetary, and programmatic impacts of the proposed federal Balanced  
18 Budget Amendment on Maryland and the manner in which the proposed Amendment is  
19 similar to and differs from the provisions in the Maryland Constitutionthat relate to the  
20 long-standing balanced budget requirement for our State; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
22 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the  
23 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
24 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.