
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 254 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY FOLMER AND WARD, DECEMBER 18, 2013

REFERRED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, DECEMBER 18, 2013

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Calling for amendments in accordance with Article V of the
2 Constitution of the United States to limit Federal spending.

3 WHEREAS, Under the Constitution of the United States the
4 Federal Government was envisioned as operating with defined,
5 specific power; and

6 WHEREAS, James Madison, Father of the Constitution,
7 reinforced this limited Federal role in Federalist Paper No. 45:

8 "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the
9 federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to
10 remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Federal Government has grown over time and now
13 consumes nearly 25% of all goods and services produced by the
14 American people; and

15 WHEREAS, Yearly deficits routinely exceed \$1 trillion; and

16 WHEREAS, A fiscal operating debt now exceeding \$17 trillion
17 is expected to exceed \$26 trillion in a decade; and

18 WHEREAS, The total accumulated unfunded liabilities for

1 Federal entitlement programs now exceeds \$90 trillion and grows
2 by \$4 trillion to nearly \$7 trillion each year; therefore be it
3 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
4 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in
5 accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United
6 States, call for amendments providing for a balanced budget,
7 limiting spending to 17.5% of gross domestic product and
8 requiring a three-fifths vote to raise the debt ceiling; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the
11 President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
12 each house of Congress, to the 49 other state legislatures and
13 to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.