



HJR 12 – Congressional Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment (LSB2105HV)
Analyst: David Reynolds (515.281.6934) dave.reynolds@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House Joint Resolution 12](#) petitions the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the [United States Constitution](#) for ratification by the states, for the purpose of imposing fiscal restraint on the federal government and limiting the federal government's power and jurisdiction. The Resolution also provides that the Iowa General Assembly join other states in applying to Congress to call a convention of the states for the same purpose.

Background

The United States Constitution provides that an amendment may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds (34) of the state legislatures. None of the 27 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by constitutional convention.¹ A convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution has never been used for proposing constitutional amendments, and there are no stated guidelines or procedures for how a convention would function.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of [HJR 12](#) cannot be determined as it is unclear how a constitutional convention would be administered, assuming the required number of states successfully petitioned Congress to initiate a convention. In addition, it is uncertain how many Iowa delegates would be appointed to attend, how much the delegates would be compensated, or how long a convention would last.

Sources

Legislative Services Agency
National Archives

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 19, 2018

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

¹ Constitutional Amendment Process, National Archives: www.archives.gov/federal-register/constitution