

ENROLLED

CS/HM 261

2014 Legislature

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 applying to Congress to call a convention for the  
4 purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
5 of the United States to provide that every law enacted  
6 by Congress shall embrace only one subject, which  
7 shall be clearly expressed in its title.  
8

9 WHEREAS, each measure before a legislative body should pass  
10 on its own merits without depending on legislative support for  
11 other unrelated measures to achieve the required number of votes  
12 for passage, and

13 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional provision  
14 addresses this concern by prohibiting a legislative body from  
15 enacting a law that embraces more than one subject, and

16 WHEREAS, 41 of the 50 states, including Florida, have a  
17 single-subject provision in their respective state  
18 constitutions, and the legislatures and citizens of these states  
19 have benefited from a single-subject requirement, and

20 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the  
21 supreme law of the United States of America, touching the lives  
22 of every citizen in the several states, but is missing this  
23 important provision, and

24 WHEREAS, our great country is deep in debt and Congress is  
25 currently searching for a solution, and

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26 WHEREAS, a federal single-subject amendment would provide  
27 the means to limit pork barrel spending, control the phenomenon  
28 of legislating through riders, limit omnibus legislation  
29 produced by logrolling, prevent public surprise, and increase  
30 the institutional accountability of Congress and its members,  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, it is Florida's hope and desire that Congress will  
33 be able to conduct its business in a more productive, efficient,  
34 transparent, and less acrimonious way with a single-subject  
35 requirement, and

36 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
37 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application  
38 of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling  
39 a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all  
40 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-  
41 fourths of the several states or by conventions in three-fourths  
42 thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be  
43 proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

44  
45 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46  
47 (1) That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all  
48 due respect, does hereby make application to the Congress of the  
49 United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the  
50 United States to call a convention for the sole purpose of

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51 | proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
52 | to provide that Congress shall pass no bill, and no bill shall  
53 | become law, which embraces more than one subject, that subject  
54 | to be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

55 |       (2) That this memorial is revoked and withdrawn,  
56 | nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it had never  
57 | been passed, and be retroactive to the date of passage, if it is  
58 | used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in support  
59 | of conducting a convention to amend the Constitution of the  
60 | United States for any purpose other than requiring that every  
61 | law enacted by Congress embrace only one subject, which shall be  
62 | clearly expressed in the title.

63 |       (3) That this application constitutes a continuing  
64 | application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of  
65 | the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds  
66 | of the states have made applications on the same subject.

67 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
68 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
69 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
70 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
71 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.