Compact for a Balanced Budget
Summary of Key Legislative Provisions

The Balanced Budget Amendment – the amendment “Payload”
- Section 1 - requires federal budget to be balanced at all times, and only approved debt can be used to fund deficits
- Section 2 – establishes a constitutional debt limit at time of ratification
- Section 3 – requires approval of a majority of the state legislatures if Congress desires to increase the debt limit
- Section 4 – requires the President to protect the integrity of the constitutional debt limit
- Section 5 – encourages spending reductions first, as opposed to tax increases, to bridge the current deficit gap
- Section 6 – provides necessary definitions
- Section 7 – provides for self-enforcement of the amendment

the Compact for a Balanced Budget - the “Delivery Vehicle”
- Purpose – to greatly simplify the amendment process by combining all the steps required of the state legislatures to safely, efficiently, and effectively propose and ratify the Balanced Budget Amendment
- Article I – describes purpose of organizing the states to originate the Balanced Budget Amendment using a compact
- Article II – provides the necessary definitions, including the actual text of the proposed Balanced Budget Amendment
- Article III – sets compact membership and withdrawal requirements
- Article IV – establishes the Compact Commission – when 2 states join
- Article V – applies to Congress for Balanced Budget Amendment Article V convention – effective when 38 states join
- Article VI – appoints and instructs delegate(s) who will attend the Balanced Budget Amendment convention
- Article VII – details the convention agenda and rules, allows first member state to designate Convention Chair
- Article VIII – prohibits participation in convention before Congress consents to Compact; prohibits runaway convention and ratification of runaway proposals by member states
- Article IX – resolution ratifying the balanced Budget Amendment – effective when convention proposes amendment and Congress refers amendment to the state legislatures for ratification
- Article X – provides enforcement by state attorney generals, central venue and termination provisions

The Congressional Resolution – the “Blessing” of the Compact by Congress
- Title 1 – resolution calling the required convention in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Compact for a Balanced Budget - effective when 38 states join the Compact
- Title 2 – resolution referring the Balanced Budget Amendment to the state legislatures for ratification - effective when convention proposes the amendment
THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT
THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Section 1. Total outlays of the government of the United States shall not exceed total receipts of the government of the United States at any point in time unless the excess of outlays over receipts is financed exclusively by debt issued in strict conformity with this article.

Section 2. Outstanding debt shall not exceed authorized debt, which initially shall be an amount equal to 105 percent of the outstanding debt on the effective date of this article. Authorized debt shall not be increased above its aforesaid initial amount unless such increase is first approved by the legislatures of the several states as provided in Section 3.

Section 3. From time to time, Congress may increase authorized debt to an amount in excess of its initial amount set by Section 2 only if it first publicly refers to the legislatures of the several states an unconditional, single subject measure proposing the amount of such increase, in such form as provided by law, and the measure is thereafter publicly and unconditionally approved by a simple majority of the legislatures of the several states, in such form as provided respectively by state law; provided that no inducement requiring an expenditure or tax levy shall be demanded, offered or accepted as a quid pro quo for such approval. If such approval is not obtained within sixty (60) calendar days after referral then the measure shall be deemed disapproved and the authorized debt shall thereby remain unchanged.

Section 4. Whenever the outstanding debt exceeds 98 percent of the debt limit set by Section 2, the President shall enforce said limit by publicly designating specific expenditures for impoundment in an amount sufficient to ensure outstanding debt shall not exceed the authorized debt. Said impoundment shall become effective thirty (30) days thereafter, unless Congress first designates an alternate impoundment of the same or greater amount by concurrent resolution, which shall become immediately effective. The failure of the President to designate or enforce the required impoundment is an impeachable misdemeanor. Any purported issuance or incurrence of any debt in excess of the debt limit set by Section 2 is void.

Section 5. No bill that provides for a new or increased general revenue tax shall become law unless approved by a two-thirds roll call vote of the whole number of each House of Congress. However, this requirement shall not apply to any bill that provides for a new end user sales tax which would completely replace every existing income tax levied by the government of the United States; or for the reduction or elimination of an exemption, deduction, or credit allowed under an existing general revenue tax.

Section 6. For purposes of this article, “debt” means any obligation backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the United States; “outstanding debt” means all debt held in any account and by any entity at a given point in time; “authorized debt” means the maximum total amount of debt that may be lawfully issued and outstanding at any single point in time under this article; “total outlays of the government of the United States” means all expenditures of the government of the United States from any source; “total receipts of the government of the United States” means all tax receipts and other income of the government of the United States, excluding proceeds from its issuance or incurrence of debt or any type of liability; “impoundment” means a proposal not to spend all or part of a sum of money appropriated by Congress; and “general revenue tax” means any income tax, sales tax, or value-added tax levied by the government of the United States excluding imposts and duties.

Section 7. This article is immediately operative upon ratification, self-enforcing, and Congress may enact conforming legislation to facilitate enforcement.
THE INTERSTATE COMPACT AGREEMENT
AN ACT

Relating to an interstate compact on a balanced federal budget.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section 1. AS 44.99 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Article 6. Compact for a Balanced Budget.

Sec. 44.99.600. Entry into agreement. The Compact for a Balanced Budget is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining it in a form substantially as contained in AS 44.99.610.

Sec. 44.99.610. Compact terms. The terms and provisions of the compact referred to in AS 44.99.600 are as follows:

COMPACT FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSE AND INTENT

Whereas, every State enacting, adopting and agreeing to be bound by this Compact intends to ensure that their respective Legislature's use of the power to originate a Balanced Budget Amendment under Article V of the Constitution of the
United States will be exercised conveniently and with reasonable certainty as to the consequences thereof.

Now, therefore, in consideration of their expressed mutual promises and obligations, be it enacted by every State enacting, adopting and agreeing to be bound by this Compact, and resolved by each of their respective Legislatures, as the case may be, to exercise herewith all of their respective powers as set forth herein notwithstanding any law to the contrary.

ARTICLE II

DEFINITIONS

Section 1. "Compact" means this "Compact for a Balanced Budget."

Section 2. "Convention" means the convention for proposing amendments organized by this Compact under Article V of the Constitution of the United States and, where contextually appropriate to ensure the terms of this Compact are not evaded, any other similar gathering or body, which might be organized as a consequence of Congress receiving the application set out in this Compact and claim authority to propose or effectuate any amendment, alteration or revision to the Constitution of the United States. This term does not encompass a convention for proposing amendments under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is organized independently of this Compact based on the separate and distinct application of any State.

Section 3. "State" means one of the several States of the United States. Where contextually appropriate, the term "State" shall be construed to include all of its branches, departments, agencies, political subdivisions, and officers and representatives acting in their official capacity.

Section 4. "Member State" means a State that has enacted, adopted and agreed to be bound to this Compact. For any State to qualify as a Member State with respect to any other State under this Compact, each such State must have enacted, adopted and agreed to be bound by substantively identical compact legislation.

Section 5. "Compact Notice Recipients" means the Archivist of the United States, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Office of the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives, the Office of the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the chief executive officer of each State, and the presiding officer(s) of each house of the Legislatures of the several States.

Section 6. Notice. All notices required by this Compact shall be by U.S. Certified Mail, return receipt requested, or an equivalent or superior form of notice, such as personal delivery documented by evidence of actual receipt.

Section 7. "Balanced Budget Amendment" means the following:

"Article __

Section 1. Total outlays of the government of the United States shall not exceed total receipts of the government of the United States at any point in time unless the excess of outlays over receipts is financed exclusively by debt issued in strict conformity with this article.

Section 2. Outstanding debt shall not exceed authorized debt, which initially shall be an amount equal to 105 percent of the outstanding debt on the effective date of this article. Authorized debt shall not be increased above its aforesaid initial amount unless such increase is first approved by the legislatures of the several states as provided in Section 3.

Section 3. From time to time, Congress may increase authorized debt to an amount in excess of its initial amount set by Section 2 only if it first publicly refers to the legislatures of the several states an unconditional, single subject measure proposing the amount of such increase, in such form as provided by law, and the measure is thereafter publicly and unconditionally approved by a simple majority of the legislatures of the several states, in such form as provided respectively by state law; provided that no inducement requiring an expenditure or tax levy shall be demanded, offered or accepted as a quid pro quo for such approval. If such approval is not obtained within sixty (60) calendar days after referral then the measure shall be deemed disapproved and the authorized debt shall thereby remain unchanged.

Section 4. Whenever the outstanding debt exceeds 98 percent of the debt limit set by Section 2, the President shall enforce said limit by publicly designating specific expenditures for impoundment in an amount sufficient to ensure outstanding debt shall not exceed the authorized debt. Said impoundment shall become effective thirty (30)
days thereafter, unless Congress first designates an alternate impoundment of the same or greater amount by concurrent resolution, which shall become immediately effective. The failure of the President to designate or enforce the required impoundment is an impeachable misdemeanor. Any purported issuance or incurrence of any debt in excess of the debt limit set by Section 2 is void.

Section 5. No bill that provides for a new or increased general revenue tax shall become law unless approved by a two-thirds roll call vote of the whole number of each House of Congress. However, this requirement shall not apply to any bill that provides for a new end user sales tax which would completely replace every existing income tax levied by the government of the United States; or for the reduction or elimination of an exemption, deduction, or credit allowed under an existing general revenue tax.

Section 6. For purposes of this article, "debt" means any obligation backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the United States; "outstanding debt" means all debt held in any account and by any entity at a given point in time; "authorized debt" means the maximum total amount of debt that may be lawfully issued and outstanding at any single point in time under this article; "total outlays of the government of the United States" means all expenditures of the government of the United States from any source; "total receipts of the government of the United States" means all tax receipts and other income of the government of the United States, excluding proceeds from its issuance or incurrence of debt or any type of liability; "impoundment" means a proposal not to spend all or part of a sum of money appropriated by Congress; and "general revenue tax" means any income tax, sales tax, or value-added tax levied by the government of the United States excluding imposts and duties.

Section 7. This article is immediately operative upon ratification, self-enforcing, and Congress may enact conforming legislation to facilitate enforcement.

ARTICLE III

COMPACT MEMBERSHIP AND WITHDRAWAL

Section 1. This Compact governs each Member State to the fullest extent permitted by their respective constitutions, superseding and repealing any conflicting
or contrary law.

Section 2. By becoming a Member State, each such State offers, promises and agrees to perform and comply strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Compact, and has made such offer, promise and agreement in anticipation and consideration of, and in substantial reliance upon, such mutual and reciprocal performance and compliance by each other current and future Member State, if any. Accordingly, in addition to having the force of law in each Member State upon its respective effective date, this Compact and each of its Articles shall also be construed as contractually binding each Member State when: (a) at least one other State has likewise become a Member State by enacting substantively identical legislation adopting and agreeing to be bound by this Compact; and (b) notice of such State's Member State status is or has been seasonably received by the Compact Administrator, if any, or otherwise by the chief executive officer of each other Member State.

Section 3. For purposes of determining Member State status under this Compact, as long as all other provisions of the Compact remain identical and operative on the same terms, legislation enacting, adopting and agreeing to be bound by this Compact shall be deemed and regarded as "substantively identical" with respect to such other legislation enacted by another State notwithstanding: (a) any difference in section 2 of Article IV with specific regard to the respectively enacting State's own method of appointing its member to the Commission; (b) any difference in section 5 of Article IV with specific regard to the respectively enacting State's own obligation to fund the Commission; (c) any difference in section 1 and 2 of Article VI with specific regard to the number and identity of each delegate respectively appointed on behalf of the enacting State, provided that no more than three delegates may attend and participate in the Convention on behalf of any State; or (d) any difference in section 7 of Article X with specific regard to the respectively enacting State as to whether section 1 of Article V of this Compact shall survive termination of this Compact, and thereafter become a continuing resolution of the Legislature of such State applying to Congress for the calling of a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, under such terms and limitations as may be
specified by such State.

Section 4. When fewer than three-fourths of the States are Member States, any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting appropriate legislation, as determined by state law, and giving notice of such withdrawal to the Compact Administrator, if any, or otherwise to the chief executive officer of each other Member State. A withdrawal shall not affect the validity or applicability of the compact with respect to remaining Member States, provided that there remain at least two such States. However, once at least three-fourths of the States are Member States, then no Member State may withdraw from the Compact prior to its termination absent unanimous consent of all Member States.

ARTICLE IV

COMPACT COMMISSION AND COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

Section 1. Nature of the Compact Commission. The Compact Commission ("Commission") is hereby established. It has the power and duty: (a) to appoint and oversee a Compact Administrator; (b) to encourage States to join the Compact and Congress to call the Convention in accordance with this Compact; (c) to coordinate the performance of obligations under the Compact; (d) to oversee the Convention's logistical operations as appropriate to ensure this Compact governs its proceedings; (e) to oversee the defense and enforcement of the Compact in appropriate legal venues; (f) to request funds and to disburse those funds to support the operations of the Commission, Compact Administrator, and Convention; and (g) to cooperate with any entity that shares a common interest with the Commission and engages in policy research, public interest litigation or lobbying in support of the purposes of the Compact. The Commission shall only have such implied powers as are essential to carrying out these express powers and duties. It shall take no action that contravenes or is inconsistent with this Compact or any law of any State that is not superseded by this Compact. It may adopt and publish corresponding bylaws and policies.

Section 2. Commission Membership. The Commission initially consists of three unpaid members. Each Member State may appoint one member to the Commission through an appointment process to be determined by their respective chief executive officer until all positions on the Commission are filled. Positions shall
be assigned to appointees in the order in which their respective appointing States became Member States. The bylaws of the Commission may expand its membership to include representatives of additional Member States and to allow for modest salaries and reimbursement of expenses if adequate funding exists.

Section 3. Commission Action. Each Commission member is entitled to one vote. The Commission shall not act unless a majority of its appointed membership is present, and no action shall be binding unless approved by a majority of the Commission's appointed membership. The Commission shall meet at least once a year, and may meet more frequently.

Section 4. First Order of Business. The Commission shall at the earliest possible time elect from among its membership a Chairperson, determine a primary place of doing business, and appoint a Compact Administrator.

Section 5. Funding. The Commission and the Compact Administrator's activities shall be funded exclusively by each Member State, as determined by their respective state law, or by voluntary donations.

Section 6. Compact Administrator. The Compact Administrator has the power and duty: (a) to timely notify the States of the date, time and location of the Convention; (b) to organize and direct the logistical operations of the Convention; (c) to maintain an accurate list of all Member States, their appointed delegates, including contact information; and (d) to formulate, transmit, and maintain all official notices, records, and communications relating to this Compact. The Compact Administrator shall only have such implied powers as are essential to carrying out these express powers and duties; and shall take no action that contravenes or is inconsistent with this Compact or any law of any State that is not superseded by this Compact. The Compact Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Commission and must keep the Commission seasonably apprised of the performance or nonperformance of the terms and conditions of this Compact. Any notice sent by a Member State to the Compact Administrator concerning this Compact shall be adequate notice to each other Member State provided that a copy of said notice is seasonably delivered by the Compact Administrator to each other Member State's respective chief executive officer.

Section 7. Notice of Key Events. Upon the occurrence of each of the following
described events, or otherwise as soon as possible, the Compact Administrator shall immediately send the following notices to all Compact Notice Recipients, together with certified conforming copies of the chaptered version of this Compact as maintained in the statutes of each Member State: (a) whenever any State becomes a Member State, notice of that fact shall be given; (b) once at least three-fourths of the States are Member States, notice of that fact shall be given together with a statement declaring that the Legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several States have applied for a convention for proposing amendments under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, petitioning Congress to call the Convention contemplated by this Compact, and further requesting cooperation in organizing the same in accordance with this Compact; (c) once Congress has called the Convention contemplated by this Compact, and whenever the date, time and location of the Convention has been determined, notice of that fact shall be given together with the date, time and location of the Convention and other essential logistical matters; (d) upon approval of the Balanced Budget Amendment by the Convention, notice of that fact shall be given together with the transmission of certified copies of such approved proposed amendment and a statement requesting Congress to refer the same for ratification by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the several States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States (however, in no event shall any proposed amendment other than the Balanced Budget Amendment be transmitted); and (e) when any Article of this Compact prospectively ratifying the Balanced Budget Amendment is effective in any Member State, notice of the same shall be given together with a statement declaring such ratification and further requesting cooperation in ensuring that the official record confirms and reflects the effective corresponding amendment to the Constitution of the United States. However, whenever any Member State enacts appropriate legislation, as determined by the laws of the respective state, withdrawing from this Compact, the Compact Administrator shall immediately send certified conforming copies of the chaptered version of such withdrawal legislation as maintained in the statutes of each such withdrawing Member State, solely to each chief executive officer of each remaining Member State, giving notice of such withdrawal.
Section 8. Cooperation. The Commission, Member States and Compact Administrator shall cooperate with each other and give each other mutual assistance in enforcing this Compact and shall give the chief law enforcement officer of each other Member State any information or documents that are reasonably necessary to facilitate the enforcement of this Compact.

Section 9. This Article does not take effect until there are at least two Member States.

ARTICLE V

RESOLUTION APPLYING FOR CONVENTION

Section 1. Be it resolved, as provided for in Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Legislature of each Member State herewith applies to Congress for the calling of a convention for proposing amendments limited to the subject matter of proposing for ratification the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Section 2. Congress is further petitioned to refer the Balanced Budget Amendment to the States for ratification by three-fourths of their respective Legislatures.

Section 3. This Article does not take effect until at least three-fourths of the several States are Member States.

ARTICLE VI

DELEGATE APPOINTMENT, LIMITATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Section 1. Number of Delegates. Each Member State shall be entitled to one delegate as its sole and exclusive representative at the Convention as set forth in this Article.

Section 2. Identity of Delegates. Each Member State's chief executive officer, who is serving on the enactment date of this Compact, is appointed in an individual capacity to represent his or her respective State at the Convention as its sole and exclusive delegate.

Section 3. Replacement or Recall of Delegates. A delegate appointed hereunder may be replaced or recalled by the Legislature of his or her respective State at any time for good cause, such as criminal misconduct or the violation of this Compact. If replaced or recalled, any delegate previously appointed hereunder must
immediately vacate the Convention and return to delegate's respective State's capitol.

Section 4. Oath. The power and authority of a delegate under this Article may only be exercised after the Convention is first called by Congress in accordance with this Compact and such appointment is duly accepted by such appointee publicly taking the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I accept this appointment and will act strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Compact for a Balanced Budget, the Constitution of the State I represent, and the Constitution of the United States. I understand that violating this oath (or affirmation) forfeits my appointment and may subject me to other penalties as provided by law."

Section 5. Term. The term of a delegate hereunder commences upon acceptance of appointment and terminates upon the permanent adjournment of the Convention, unless shortened by recall, replacement or forfeiture under this Article. Upon expiration of such term, any person formerly serving as a delegate must immediately withdraw from and cease participation at the Convention, if any is proceeding.

Section 6. Delegate Authority. The power and authority of any delegate appointed hereunder is strictly limited: (a) to introducing, debating, voting upon, proposing and enforcing the Convention Rules specified in this Compact, as needed to ensure those rules govern the Convention; and (b) to introducing, debating, voting upon, and rejecting or proposing for ratification the Balanced Budget Amendment. All actions taken by any delegate in violation of this section are void ab initio.

Section 7. Delegate Authority. No delegate of any Member State may introduce, debate, vote upon, reject or propose for ratification any constitutional amendment at the Convention unless: (a) the Convention Rules specified in this Compact govern the Convention and their actions; and (b) the constitutional amendment is the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Section 8. Delegate Authority. The power and authority of any delegate at the Convention does not include any power or authority associated with any other public office held by the delegate. Any person appointed to serve as a delegate shall take a temporary leave of absence, or otherwise shall be deemed temporarily disabled, from any other public office held by the delegate while attending the Convention, and may
not exercise any power or authority associated with any other public office held by the
delegate while attending the Convention. All actions taken by any delegate in violation
of this section are void ab initio.

Section 9. Order of Business. Before introducing, debating, voting upon,
rejecting or proposing for ratification any constitutional amendment at the Convention,
each delegate of every Member State must first ensure the Convention Rules in this
Compact govern the Convention and their actions. Every delegate and each Member
State must immediately vacate the Convention and notify the Compact Administrator
by the most effective and expeditious means if the Convention Rules in this Compact
are not adopted to govern the Convention and their actions.

Section 10. Forfeiture of Appointment. If any Member State or delegate
violates any provision of this Compact, then every delegate of that Member State
immediately forfeits his or her appointment, and shall immediately cease participation
at the Convention, vacate the Convention, and return to his or her respective State's
capitol.

Section 11. Expenses. A delegate appointed hereunder is entitled to
reimbursement of reasonable expenses for attending the Convention from his or her
respective Member State. No delegate may accept any other form of remuneration or
compensation for service under this Compact.

ARTICLE VII

CONVENTION RULES

Section 1. Nature of the Convention. The Convention shall be organized,
construed and conducted as a body exclusively representing and constituted by the
several States.

Section 2. Agenda of the Convention. The agenda of the Convention shall be
entirely focused upon and exclusively limited to introducing, debating, voting upon,
and rejecting or proposing for ratification the Balanced Budget Amendment under the
Convention Rules specified in this Article and in accordance with the Compact. It
shall not be in order for the Convention to consider any matter that is outside the scope
of this agenda.

Section 3. Delegate Identity and Procedure. States shall be represented at the
Convention through duly appointed delegates. The number, identity and authority of
delegates assigned to each State shall be determined by this Compact in the case of
Member States or, in the case of States that are not Member States, by their respective
state laws. However, to prevent disruption of proceedings, no more than three
delegates may attend and participate in the Convention on behalf of any State. A
certified chaptered conforming copy of this Compact, together with government-
issued photographic proof of identification, shall suffice as credentials for delegates of
Member States. Any commission for delegates of States that are not Member States
shall be based on their respective state laws, but it shall furnish credentials that are at
least as reliable as those required of Member States.

Section 4. Voting. Each State represented at the Convention shall have one
certified chaptered copy of this Compact, together with government-issued photographic proof of identification, shall suffice as credentials for delegates of Member States. Any commission for delegates of States that are not Member States shall be based on their respective state laws, but it shall furnish credentials that are at least as reliable as those required of Member States.

Section 4. Voting. Each State represented at the Convention shall have one
vote, exercised by the vote of that State's delegate in the case of States represented by
one delegate, or, in the case of any State that is represented by more than one delegate,
by the majority vote of that State's respective delegates.

Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the several States of the United States, each
present through its respective delegate in the case of any State that is represented by
one delegate, or through a majority of its respective delegates, in the case of any State
that is represented by more than one delegate, shall constitute a quorum for the
transaction of any business on behalf of the Convention.

Section 6. Action by the Convention. The Convention shall only act as a
committee of the whole chaired by the delegate representing the first State to have
become a Member State, if that State is represented by one delegate, or otherwise by
the delegate chosen by the majority vote of that State's respective delegates. The
transaction of any business on behalf of the Convention, including the designation of a
Secretary, the adoption of parliamentary procedures and the rejection or proposal of
any constitutional amendment, requires a quorum to be present and a majority
affirmative vote of those States constituting the quorum.

Section 7. Emergency Suspension and Relocation of the Convention. In the
event that the Chair of the Convention declares an emergency due to disorder or an
imminent threat to public health and safety prior to the completion of the business on
the Agenda, and a majority of the States present at the Convention do not object to
such declaration, further Convention proceedings shall be temporarily suspended, and
the Commission shall subsequently relocate or reschedule the Convention to resume
proceedings in an orderly fashion in accordance with the terms and conditions of this
Compact with prior notice given to the Compact Notice Recipients.

Section 8. Parliamentary Procedure. In adopting, applying and formulating
parliamentary procedure, the Convention shall exclusively adopt, apply or
appropriately adapt provisions of the most recent editions of Robert’s Rules of Order
and the American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary
Procedure. In adopting, applying or adapting parliamentary procedure, the Convention
shall exclusively consider analogous precedent arising within the jurisdiction of the
United States. Parliamentary procedures adopted, applied or adapted pursuant to this
section shall not obstruct, override, or otherwise conflict with this Compact.

Section 9. Transmittal. Upon approval of the Balanced Budget Amendment by
the Convention to propose for ratification, the Chair of the Convention shall
immediately transmit certified copies of such approved proposed amendment to the
Compact Administrator and all Compact Notice Recipients, notifying them
respectively of such approval and requesting Congress to refer the same for
ratification by the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States.
However, in no event shall any proposed amendment other than the Balanced Budget
Amendment be transmitted as aforesaid.

Section 10. Transparency. Records of the Convention, including the identities
of all attendees and detailed minutes of all proceedings, shall be kept by the Chair of
the Convention or Secretary designated by the Convention. All proceedings and
records of the Convention shall be open to the public upon request subject to
reasonable regulations adopted by the Convention that are closely tailored to
preventing disruption of proceedings under this Article.

Section 11. Adjournment of the Convention. The Convention shall
permanently adjourn upon the earlier of twenty-four (24) hours after commencing
proceedings under this Article or the completion of the business on its Agenda.

ARTICLE VIII

PROHIBITION ON ULTRA VIRES CONVENTION
Section 1. Member States shall not participate in the Convention unless: (a) Congress first calls the Convention in accordance with this Compact; and (b) the Convention Rules of this Compact are adopted by the Convention as its first order of business.

Section 2. Any proposal or action of the Convention is void ab initio and issued by a body that is conducting itself in an unlawful and ultra vires fashion if that proposal or action: (a) violates or was approved in violation of the Convention Rules or the delegate instructions and limitations on delegate authority specified in this Compact; (b) purports to propose or effectuate a mode of ratification that is not specified in Article V of the Constitution of the United States; or (c) purports to propose or effectuate the formation of a new government. All Member States are prohibited from advancing or assisting in the advancement of any such proposal or action.

Section 3. Member States shall not ratify or otherwise approve any proposed amendment, alteration or revision to the Constitution of the United States, which originates from the Convention, other than the Balanced Budget Amendment.

ARTICLE IX

RESOLUTION PROSPECTIVELY RATIFYING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Section 1. Each Member State, by and through its respective Legislature, hereby adopts and ratifies the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Section 2. This Article does not take effect until Congress effectively refers the Balanced Budget Amendment to the States for ratification by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the several States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE X

CONSTRUCTION, ENFORCEMENT, VENUE, AND SEVERABILITY

Section 1. To the extent that the effectiveness of this Compact or any of its Articles or provisions requires the alteration of local legislative rules, drafting policies, or procedure to be effective, the enactment of legislation enacting, adopting and agreeing to be bound by this Compact shall be deemed to waive, repeal, supersede, or
otherwise amend and conform all such rules, policies or procedures to allow for the effectiveness of this Compact to the fullest extent permitted by the constitution of any affected Member State.

Section 2. Date and Location of the Convention. Unless otherwise specified by Congress in its call, the Convention shall be held in Dallas, Texas and commence proceedings at 9:00 a.m. Central Standard Time on the sixth Wednesday after the latter of the effective date of Article V of this Compact or the enactment date of the Congressional resolution calling the Convention.

Section 3. In addition to all other powers and duties conferred by state law which are consistent with the terms and conditions of this Compact, the chief law enforcement officer of each Member State is empowered to defend the Compact from any legal challenge, as well as to seek civil mandatory and prohibitory injunctive relief to enforce this Compact; and shall take such action whenever the Compact is challenged or violated.

Section 4. The exclusive venue for all actions in any way arising under this Compact shall be in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas or the courts of the State of Texas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the foregoing district court. Each Member State shall submit to the jurisdiction of said courts with respect to such actions. However, upon written request by the chief law enforcement officer of any Member State, the Commission may elect to waive this provision for the purpose of ensuring an action proceeds in the venue that allows for the most convenient and effective enforcement or defense of this Compact. Any such waiver shall be limited to the particular action to which it is applied and not construed or relied upon as a general waiver of this provision. The waiver decisions of the Commission under this provision shall be final and binding on each Member State.

Section 5. The effective date of this Compact and any of its Articles is the latter of: (a) the date of any event rendering the same effective according to its respective terms and conditions; or (b) the earliest date otherwise permitted by law.

Section 6. Article VIII of this Compact is hereby deemed non-severable prior to termination of the Compact. However, if any other phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this Compact, or the applicability of any other phrase, clause, sentence or
provision of this Compact to any government, agency, person or circumstance, is declared in a final judgment to be contrary to the Constitution of the United States, contrary to the state constitution of any Member State, or is otherwise held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such phrase, clause, sentence or provision shall be severed and held for naught, and the validity of the remainder of this Compact and the applicability of the remainder of this Compact to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected. Furthermore, if this Compact is declared in a final judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction to be entirely contrary to the state constitution of any Member State or otherwise entirely invalid as to any Member State, such Member State shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Compact, and the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to any remaining Member State. Finally, if this Compact is declared in a final judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction to be wholly or substantially in violation of Article I, Section 10, of the Constitution of the United States, then it shall be construed and enforced solely as reciprocal legislation enacted by the affected Member State(s).

Section 7. Termination. This Compact shall terminate and be held for naught when the Compact is fully performed and the Constitution of the United States is amended by the Balanced Budget Amendment. However, notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Compact, in the event such amendment does not occur within seven (7) years after the first State passes legislation enacting, adopting and agreeing to be bound to this Compact, the Compact shall terminate as follows: (a) the Commission shall dissolve and wind up its operations within ninety (90) days thereafter, with the Compact Administrator giving notice of such dissolution and the operative effect of this section to the Compact Notice Recipients; and (b) upon the completed dissolution of the Commission, this Compact shall be deemed terminated, repealed, void ab initio, and held for naught.

* Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. Notwithstanding AS 01.05.031(c), the revisor of statutes is instructed not to edit or revise the text of the compact in AS 44.99.610, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, so as to avoid the use of pronouns denoting masculine or feminine gender.
Effectuating the Compact for a Balanced Budget.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2017

Mr. Messer (for himself, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Harper, and Mr. Jody B. Hice of Georgia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
Effectuating the Compact for a Balanced Budget.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO EFFECTUATE THE COMPACT FOR A BALANCED BUDGET.

(a) Declaration.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution calls the Convention contemplated by the Compact for a Balanced Budget under article V of the United States Constitution, and refers for ratification the Balanced Budget Amendment contemplated by the Compact for a Balanced Budget.
(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution to effectuate the Compact for a Balanced Budget.

Title I—Concurrent Resolution Prospectively Calling Convention Contemplated by Compact for a Balanced Budget

Sec. 101. Effective date.
Sec. 102. Convention call.
Sec. 103. Termination date.

Title II—Concurrent Resolution Prospectively Referring the Balanced Budget Amendment to State Legislatures for Ratification

Sec. 201. Effective date.
Sec. 202. Referral to legislatures of the several States for ratification.

Title I—Concurrent Resolution Prospectively Calling Convention Contemplated by Compact for a Balanced Budget

Sec. 101. Effective Date.

This title does not take effect until Congress receives sufficient certified conforming copies of the chaptered version of the Compact for a Balanced Budget formed initially by the State of Georgia and the State of Alaska pursuant to 2014 Georgia Laws Act 475 (H.B. 794) and 2014 Alaska Laws Ch. 12 (H.B. 284), respectively, as it may be joined by additional States and amended from time to time (“Compact for a Balanced Budget”), evidencing that at least three-fourths of the several States are Member States of the Compact for a Balanced Budget and
have made application thereunder for a convention for
proposing amendments under article V of the United
States Constitution.

SEC. 102. CONVENTION CALL.

Upon the effective date of this title, be it resolved
by the House of Representatives of the United States (the
Senate concurring), Congress hereby calls a convention for
proposing amendments under article V of the United
States Constitution in accordance with the Compact for
a Balanced Budget.

SEC. 103. TERMINATION DATE.

If for any reason the convention for proposing
amendments under article V of the United States Con-
stitution contemplated herein has not permanently ad-
journed within one year from the effective date of this
title, all titles of this resolution shall become null and void
ab initio and shall be deemed repealed in its entirety.
TITLE II—CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROSPECTIVELY REFERRING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO STATE LEGISLATURES FOR RATIFICATION

SEC. 201. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title does not take effect until Congress receives a certified conforming copy of the Balanced Budget Amendment, as defined by the Compact for a Balanced Budget and described herein, evidencing that the convention for proposing amendments under article V of the United States Constitution organized thereunder has approved and proposed the same for ratification.

SEC. 202. REFERRAL TO LEGISLATURES OF THE SEVERAL STATES FOR RATIFICATION.

Upon the effective date of this title, be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the United States (the Senate concurring), that the following article has been proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States by a convention for proposing amendments under article V of the United States Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-
fourths of the several States within seven years after the
date of its submission for ratification:

“Article—

“Section 1. Total outlays of the Government of the United States shall not exceed total receipts of the Government of the United States at any point in time unless the excess of outlays over receipts is financed exclusively by debt issued in strict conformity with this article.

“Section 2. Outstanding debt shall not exceed authorized debt, which initially shall be an amount equal to 105 percent of the outstanding debt on the effective date of this article. Authorized debt shall not be increased above its aforesaid initial amount unless such increase is first approved by the legislatures of the several States as provided in section 3.

“Section 3. From time to time, Congress may increase authorized debt to an amount in excess of its initial amount set by section 2 only if it first publicly refers to the legislatures of the several States an unconditional, single subject measure proposing the amount of such increase, in such form as provided by law, and the measure is thereafter publicly and unconditionally approved by a simple majority of the legislatures of the several States, in such form as provided respectively by State law; provided that no inducement requiring an expenditure or tax
levy shall be demanded, offered or accepted as a quid pro
quo for such approval. If such approval is not obtained
within 60 calendar days after referral then the measure
shall be deemed disapproved and the authorized debt shall
thereby remain unchanged.

“SECTION 4. Whenever the outstanding debt exceeds
98 percent of the debt limit set by section 2, the President
shall enforce said limit by publicly designating specific ex-
penditures for impoundment in an amount sufficient to
ensure outstanding debt shall not exceed the authorized
debt. Said impoundment shall become effective 30 days
thereafter, unless Congress first designates an alternate
impoundment of the same or greater amount by concur-
rent resolution, which shall become immediately effective.
The failure of the President to designate or enforce the
required impoundment is an impeachable misdemeanor.
Any purported issuance or incurrence of any debt in excess
of the debt limit set by section 2 is void.

“SECTION 5. No bill that provides for a new or in-
creased general revenue tax shall become law unless ap-
proved by a two-thirds roll call vote of the whole number
of each House of Congress. However, this requirement
shall not apply to any bill that provides for a new end
user sales tax which would completely replace every exist-
ing income tax levied by the Government of the United
States; or for the reduction or elimination of an exemp-
tion, deduction, or credit allowed under an existing general
revenue tax.

“SECTION 6. For purposes of this article, ‘debt’
means any obligation backed by the full faith and credit
of the Government of the United States; ‘outstanding
debt’ means all debt held in any account and by any entity
at a given point in time; ‘authorized debt’ means the max-
imum total amount of debt that may be lawfully issued
and outstanding at any single point in time under this
article; ‘total outlays of the Government of the United
States’ means all expenditures of the Government of the
United States from any source; ‘total receipts of the Gov-
ernment of the United States’ means all tax receipts and
other income of the Government of the United States, ex-
cluding proceeds from its issuance or incurrence of debt
or any type of liability; ‘impoundment’ means a proposal
not to spend all or part of a sum of money appropriated
by Congress; and ‘general revenue tax’ means any income
tax, sales tax, or value-added tax levied by the Government
of the United States excluding imposts and duties.

“SECTION 7. This article is immediately operative
upon ratification, self-enforcing, and Congress may enact
conforming legislation to facilitate enforcement.”.