

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

§ 206–§ 207

[ARTICLE VII]

the exclusion by a State legislature of a member-elect of that body was unconstitutional, where the legislature had asserted the power to judge the sincerity with which the Member-elect could take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States. In the 97th Congress, the House declared vacant by majority vote the seat of a Member-elect unable to take the oath because of illness, in which the medical prognosis showed no likelihood of improvement to permit the Member-elect to take the oath or assume the duties of a Representative (Precedents (Smith), ch. 7, § 6.8).

Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States: *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. (4 Wheat.) 316 (1819); *Ex parte Garland*, 71 U.S. (4 Wall.) 333 (1867); *Davis v. Beason*, 133 U.S. 333 (1890); *Mormon Church v. United States*, 136 U.S. 1 (1890).

§ 206. Decisions of the Court.

ARTICLE VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

DONE in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth IN WITNESS whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON—*Presi<sup>dt</sup>*.  
*and Deputy from Virginia.*

[Signed also by the deputies of twelve States.]

*New Hampshire.*

JOHN LANGDON,

NICHOLAS GILMAN.

*Massachusetts.*

NATHANIEL GORHAM,

RUFUS KING.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES  
[ARTICLE VII]

§ 207

*Connecticut.*

WM. SAML. JOHNSON,                      ROGER SHERMAN.

*New York.*

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

*New Jersey.*

WIL: LIVINGSTON,                      WM. PATERSON,  
DAVID BREARLEY,                      JONA: DAYTON.

*Pennsylvania.*

B FRANKLIN,                              THOMAS MIFFLIN,  
ROBT. MORRIS,                          GEO. CLYMER,  
THOS. FITZSIMONS,                      JARED INGERSOLL,  
JAMES WILSON,                          GOUV MORRIS.

*Delaware.*

GEO. READ,                              GUNNING BEDFORD JUN,  
JOHN DICKINSON,                      RICHARD BASSETT.  
JACO BROOM,

*Maryland.*

JAMES MCHENRY,                      DAN OF ST THOS. JENIFER.  
DAN<sup>l</sup> CARROLL,

*Virginia.*

JOHN BLAIR,                              JAMES MADISON JR.

*North Carolina.*

WM. BLOUNT,                              RICH<sup>DP</sup>. DOBBS SPAIGHT.  
HU WILLIAMSON,

*South Carolina.*

J. RUTLEDGE,                              CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,  
CHARLES PINCKNEY,                      PIERCE BUTLER.

*Georgia.*

WILLIAM FEW,                              ABR BALDWIN.  
Attest:                                      WILLIAM JACKSON, *Secretary.*

ARTICLES IN ADDITION TO, AND AMENDMENT OF,  
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, PROPOSED BY CONGRESS, AND RATI-  
FIED BY THE SEVERAL STATES PURSUANT TO  
THE FIFTH ARTICLE OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITU-  
TION<sup>1</sup>

### AMENDMENT I.

§ 208. Freedom of religion, of speech, and of peaceable assembly.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### AMENDMENT II.

§ 209. The right to bear arms.

A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

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<sup>1</sup>The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States were proposed to the legislatures of the several States by the First Congress on September 25, 1789 (this date and the date succeeding amendments were proposed is the date of final congressional action—signature by the presiding officer of the Senate—as is shown in the Senate Journals). They were ratified by the following States, on the dates shown, and the notifications by the governors thereof of ratification were communicated by the President to Congress: New Jersey, November 20, 1789; Maryland, December 19, 1789; North Carolina, December 22, 1789; South Carolina, January 19, 1790; New Hampshire, January 25, 1790; Delaware, January 28, 1790; New York, February 27, 1790; Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790; Rhode Island, June 7, 1790; Vermont, November 3, 1791; Virginia, December 15, 1791. Ratification was completed on December 15, 1791. The amendments were subsequently ratified by Massachusetts, March 2, 1939; Georgia, March 18, 1939; Connecticut, April 19, 1939.