

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 21

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the proposal and the enactment of laws by popular vote of the people of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the proposal and the enactment of laws by popular vote of the people of the United States.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*
5 *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*
6 *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*
7 *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*

1 States within seven years after the date of its submission
2 for ratification:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. The people of the United States shall
5 have the power to propose and enact laws in accordance
6 with this article, except with respect to carrying out the
7 powers granted to Congress in the 11th and 15th clauses
8 of article I, section 8, of this Constitution. This article
9 does not grant the people of the United States the power
10 to propose amendments to this Constitution.

11 “SECTION 2. A law may be proposed by presenting
12 to the President a petition that sets forth the text of the
13 proposed law and contains signatures, collected within the
14 eighteen months prior to such presentation, of registered
15 voters equal in number to 3 percent of the ballots cast
16 in the last general election for President, and which in-
17 cludes the signatures of registered voters in each of one-
18 fourth of the States equal in number to 3 percent of the
19 ballots cast in the last general election for President in
20 each such State. Within ninety days after such presen-
21 tation, the President shall determine the validity of the
22 signatures contained in such petition through consultation
23 with the appropriate States. Upon a determination that
24 such petition contains the required number of valid signa-
25 tures, he shall certify such petition. He shall then direct

1 that the proposed law be placed on the ballot at the next
2 general election held for choosing Members of the House
3 of Representatives occurring at least one hundred and
4 twenty days after such certification. The Congress shall
5 provide by law reasonable procedures for the preparation
6 and transmittal of such petitions, and for the certification
7 of signatures on such petitions. For the purposes of this
8 section, the term ‘State’ shall include the District of Co-
9 lumbia.

10 “SECTION 3. A proposed law shall be enacted upon
11 receiving a majority of the number of electoral votes. For
12 purposes of this section, each State shall have a number
13 of electoral votes equal to the number of Senators and
14 Representatives to which such State is entitled in the Con-
15 gress. The District of Columbia shall have a number of
16 electoral votes equal to the number of Senators and Rep-
17 resentatives to which it would be entitled in the Congress
18 if it were a State, but in no event more than the number
19 of electoral votes of the least populous State. A proposed
20 law shall receive a proportion of the number of electoral
21 votes of each State equal to the proportion of the ballots
22 cast in such State with respect to such proposed law that
23 were cast for approval of such proposed law. In making
24 the computation, fractional numbers less than one-one-
25 thousandth shall be disregarded.

1 “SECTION 4. Any law enacted pursuant to this article
2 shall be a law the same as any other law of the United
3 States, except that any law to repeal or amend a law en-
4 acted pursuant to this article during the 2 years imme-
5 diately following its effective date must receive an affirma-
6 tive rollcall vote of two-thirds of the Members of each
7 House duly elected and sworn. No law, the enactment of
8 which is forbidden the Congress by this Constitution or
9 any amendment thereof, may be enacted by the people
10 under this article.

11 “SECTION 5. The Congress and the people shall have
12 the power to enforce this article by appropriate legisla-
13 tion.”.

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