

1 WHEREAS, many cities have revised their charters to reflect current conditions and
2 many states have adopted new constitutions since inception; and

3 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America has remained in place
4 for more than two hundred twenty-five years; and

5 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America mandates
6 that upon the "Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States", congress
7 shall "call a Convention for proposing Amendments"; and

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana deems the calling of a constitutional
9 convention to be long overdue and urgently needed to propose amendments to the
10 Constitution of the United States of America that address term limits for federal officials and
11 members of congress, election reform, ethics for public servants, financial discipline, states'
12 countermand authority, and other appropriate matters to modernize the constitution and
13 enhance the freedoms, opportunities, and prosperity of the people.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby applies
15 to congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States of
16 America, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to
17 the Constitution of the United States of America that address term limits for federal officials
18 and members of congress, election reform, ethics for public servants, financial discipline,
19 states' countermand authority, and other appropriate matters to modernize the constitution
20 and enhance the freedoms, opportunities, and prosperity of the people.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state is hereby directed to
22 transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate
23 and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and copies to
24 the members of the said Senate and House of Representatives from this state; also to transmit
25 copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states,
26 requesting their cooperation.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application constitutes a continuing
28 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America
29 until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the
30 same subjects.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 demand that the United States Congress set the date for the convening of the constitutional
3 convention within thirty days of the date that at least two-thirds of the state legislatures have
4 adopted similar resolutions, such date of convening being no sooner than five months or later
5 than six months from the date that the required number of states applied to congress for such
6 convention.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress, the President of the
8 United States, and the United States Supreme Court shall have no powers or authority
9 relative to the constitutional convention other than setting the date of convening such
10 convention.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the United States Congress fails to promptly
12 set the date for the convening of the convention as provided in this Resolution, the states or
13 their established delegations may act independently to take all actions necessary to convene
14 the convention.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegates to the convention shall be prohibited
16 from offering and instructed to oppose amendments that weaken the Bill of Rights, limit
17 civil rights, reduce any personal freedoms, or in any way create special privileges.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the rules of order of the convention shall seek to
19 emulate the conditions present at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in the manner of
20 providing security, privacy, and procedures for open discussion that encourage neither haste
21 nor delay, wise decisions, and recommendations of acceptable amendments.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express
23 the following relative to the convention:

24 STATE DELEGATIONS AND DELEGATES. Each state may send a delegation to
25 the convention. Each delegation shall have one vote, equal rights, privileges,
26 authority, and all else necessary to accomplish the convention's objectives. Each
27 state may, in any manner it sees fit, elect or appoint no less than three and no more
28 than seven official delegates to represent its interests at the convention. Two
29 alternate delegates may be elected to substitute for any official delegate unable to
30 serve for any reason.

1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES.

2 Delegates and alternates must be United States citizens, no less than forty years of
3 age, and with a reputation for honesty, hard work, intelligence, and patriotism. No
4 person shall be eligible to serve as a delegate if he is serving or has been in the
5 federal government in any elected, judicial, appointed, or employed position. No
6 person shall be eligible to serve as a delegate if he has ever been convicted of a
7 felony, declared bankruptcy, or been employed as a lobbyist. The convention may
8 select nonvoting advisors that may include former presidents of the United States and
9 active members of the United States Armed Forces, subject to the same
10 qualifications as official delegates.

11 ORGANIZATION. After no less than twenty delegations have been empowered by
12 their respective states, a temporary convening committee shall be appointed from
13 those states to determine where, and, if the congress fails to promptly convene the
14 convention, when the convention shall convene, to certify the qualifications of all
15 delegates, to provide credentials, and to make all necessary arrangements to convene
16 the convention.

17 Upon convening, the convention shall elect an administrative committee
18 charged with the full responsibility for the operation and rules of order for the
19 convention. The administrative committee may discharge any delegate for cause,
20 breach of secrecy or security, or conflict of interest; however, a majority vote of the
21 convention may at any time overrule a decision of the administrative committee, and
22 remove and replace any of its members.

23 At no time shall any delegation be denied its right and responsibility to
24 represent its state by voting on every motion and amendment. Any absence of one
25 or more delegates from a delegation shall not deny that delegation its right to vote.
26 If the administrative committee disqualifies any delegate, the next alternate delegate
27 from that state shall immediately fill his place with full authority.

28 FINANCE. The cost for the operation of the constitutional convention shall be borne
29 equally among all states, the amount required to be established by the convening

1 committee. Additional requests for funds shall be borne equally among all the states
2 and shall be paid promptly, or their delegation may not vote.

3 Within forty-five days after the convention is adjourned, all financial
4 obligations are to be promptly settled with a full accounting of all costs presented to
5 every state, and all remaining funds equally distributed among the states.

6 Each state shall bear all of the personal and living expenses of its delegates
7 and alternate delegates.

8 Each state may elect to pay its share of these costs through the collection of
9 private funds and donations instead of state general funds in the same manner in
10 which Louisiana will pay its share.

11 PRIVACY and SECURITY. The convention shall appoint a security committee
12 charged with the responsibility and authority to maintain privacy, security, secrecy,
13 and assure that all convention activities, meetings, communications, documents, and
14 conversations shall be confidential. The security committee will foster conditions for
15 thoughtful and respectful communications between delegates and working conditions
16 conducive to the origination of prudent, practical, and politically acceptable
17 amendments for ratification. Once the work of the convention is complete, full
18 disclosure of recommendations, records, and events of the convention shall be made
19 public.

20 The security committee shall have full authority to select and employ reliable
21 security forces sufficient to provide for the necessary safety and security of all
22 delegates.

23 PATRIOTISM. All delegates to the convention shall take the following oath:

24 "I swear to faithfully serve the American people by fulfilling my duties as
25 a delegate to this convention. I promise to respect and cooperate with other
26 delegates, work with patriotism, and recommend amendments for the betterment of
27 the nation, so help me God."

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be known and cited as the "Good
29 Government Resolution".

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 23 Original

2015 Regular Session

Abramson

Applies to the U.S. Congress, under Art. V of the U.S. Constitution, for calling a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that address term limits for federal officials and members of congress, election reform, ethics for public servants, financial discipline, states' countermand authority, and other appropriate matters to modernize the constitution and enhance the freedoms, opportunities, and prosperity of the people; to demand that the congress convene the convention within a specific time period leaving all other decisions regarding the convention to the state legislatures and their appointed delegates in the manner provided in the Resolution; and to demand that delegates be prohibited from offering and instructed to oppose amendments that weaken the Bill of Rights, limit civil rights, reduce personal freedoms, or create special privileges.

Provides that the application is a continuing application, under Art. V of the U.S. Constitution, until the legislatures of at least 2/3 of the states have made applications on the same subjects.

Further expresses specific organizational and structural plans regarding the convention and qualifications of delegates