

Proposed Amendments Not Ratified by the States

In addition to amendments ratified by the required three-fourths of the States, six other amendments have been submitted to the States but have not been ratified by the required three-fourths majority. Beginning with the proposed Eighteenth Amendment, Congress has normally included a provision requiring ratification within seven years from the time of the submission to the States. The Supreme Court, in *Coleman v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 433 (1939), declared that the question of the reasonableness of the time within which a sufficient number of States must act is a political question to be determined by the Congress.

Number of Representatives

At the time of the submission of the Bill of Rights, twelve proposed amendments were submitted to the States. Of these, Articles 3-12 were ratified and became known as the Bill of Rights. Proposed Articles 1 and 2 were not ratified at that time. In 1992 (203 years later), Article 2 was proclaimed as ratified (Amendment 27), but the Article 1 has yet to be ratified. The following is its text:

Article I. After the first enumeration required by the first article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred; after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons.

Title of Nobility

In the 2d session of the 11th Congress, this amendment was proposed relating to citizens of the

United States accepting of titles of nobility from any foreign government:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of both Houses concurring), That the following section be submitted to the legislatures of the several states, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the states, shall be valid and binding, as a part of the constitution of the United States. If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive or retain any title of nobility or honour, or shall, without the consent of Congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office or emolument of any kind whatever, from any emperor, king, prince or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them.

Many of our presidents have received titles from various royalty. Presidents Eisenhower, Reagan, and Bush Sr. have all been given honorary knighthood by the British monarchs for their roles in various wars. (Actual knighthood can only be given to British citizens. It should also be noted that the bestowal took place after they left the office of the President.)

It is noteworthy that although a U.S. citizen may accept a title of nobility, a noble seeking U.S.

citizenship must give up all titles when applying for citizenship.

Federal Interference in State Matters

During the second session of the 36th Congress, on March 2, 1861, this amendment was signed by the President - only proposed amendment ever signed by the President. The President's signature is unnecessary because of the constitutional provision that upon the concurrence of two-thirds of both Houses of Congress the proposal shall be submitted to the States and shall be ratified by three-fourths of the States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz:

Article Thirteen

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State."

Child Labor

This proposed child-labor amendment was submitted to the States during the 1st session of the 68th Congress in June 1924:

Joint Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

Resolved by the Senate and House of

Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution:

Article-----

Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

Section 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the Congress.

“Equal Rights”

The so-called ‘Equal Rights’ amendment formally died on June 30, 1982, after an unconstitutional extension of the original seven-year period for ratification. The president has nothing to do with the constitutional amendment process - President Carter’s executive order giving the amendment a seven-year extension was illegal and unconstitutional. See SEVEN YEAR LIMITATION.

House Joint Resolution 208

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That

The following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 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 from the date of its submission by the Congress:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. One of the strong arguments against this was that it destroyed States' rights in this regard and gave it to Congress and federal courts. It in effect gave the federal government the power to establish roles for men and women inconsistent with the roles established by God.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

Many churches and other organizations opposed this for various reasons, the main one being that it would be used to legally abolish what God-given differences between Man and Woman and their respective roles, something already happening within state and local courts under the guise of 'equal rights'. Additionally, it was feared it would be used remove health and safety regulations protecting women in the workplace and to remove a woman's right to depend on her husband for maintenance and support.

Representation for the District

This amendment relating to representation in Congress for the District of Columbia failed ratification, only 16 States having ratified as of the 1985 expiration date for the ratification period. It would have given the District's Congressional representatives voting rights

House Joint Resolution 554

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House

concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 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 from the date of its submission by the Congress:

Article

Section 1. For purposes of representation in the Congress, election of the President and Vice President, and article V of this Constitution, the District constituting the seat of government of the United States shall be treated as though it were a State.

Sec. 2. The exercise of the rights and powers conferred under this article shall be by the people of the District constituting the seat of government, and as shall be provided by the Congress.

Sec. 3. The twenty-third article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This article shall be inoperative, unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission."