

**Representative Merrill F. Nelson** proposes the following substitute bill:

**JOINT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CONVENTION TO  
AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Merrill F. Nelson**

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature petitions Congress for an Article V convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This joint resolution:

- ▶ petitions Congress for an Article V convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government and to limit the federal government's power and jurisdiction; and
- ▶ petitions Congress to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States for the same purpose.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government;

WHEREAS, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through



26 improper and imprudent spending;

27 WHEREAS, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states  
28 through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great  
29 extent;

30 WHEREAS, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of  
31 the Constitution of the United States; and

32 WHEREAS, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people –  
33 particularly for the generations to come – by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the  
34 United States through a convention of the states under Article V for the purpose of restraining  
35 these and related abuses of power:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
37 hereby petitions the Congress of the United States to propose amendments to the Constitution  
38 of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, to impose fiscal restraints on  
39 the federal government and to limit the federal government's power and jurisdiction.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the  
41 United States, the Utah Legislature joins in the applications of the states of Georgia (S.R. 736,  
42 2014), Florida (S.M. 476, 2014), Alaska (H.J.R. 22, 2014), Alabama (H.J.R. 112, 2015),  
43 Tennessee (S.J. 67, 2016), Indiana (S.J.R. 14, 2016), Oklahoma (S.J.R. 4, 2016), and Louisiana  
44 (S.C.R. 52, 2016) for a convention of the states for the specific and exclusive purpose of  
45 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States limited to the purposes stated  
46 therein; provided, however, that the commissioners from Utah to said convention are expressly  
47 limited to consideration and support of amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal  
48 government, and amendments that limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government,  
49 and no other amendments on any topic whatsoever.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah intends that this  
51 application be aggregated with the subsequent applications of other states limited to the  
52 purposes identified in this application and with subsequent applications for the same purposes  
53 as those applications of the above-mentioned states.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
55 the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of  
56 Utah's congressional delegation, and the state legislators of the other 50 states, requesting their

57 cooperation.

58           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this joint resolution constitutes a continuing  
59 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the  
60 legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same  
61 subject.