

Examined

Senate Calendar No. 1
Introduced by Mr. Frick.

House Calendar No. — 31

REGISTERED
HALL OF DELEGATES

~~RECORDED~~
~~INDEXED~~
~~FILED~~
~~SEP 2 1920~~

Joint Resolution No. 2

CHAPTER 64

3

ENTITLED

JOINT RESOLUTION of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, rejecting and refusing to ratify an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress, to the Legislatures of the several States.

By the SENATE, February 6, 1920.

Introduced, read first time and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

By Order: E. R. CROTHERS, Secretary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Favorable report.

CHAS. STERETT GRASON, Chairman.

By the SENATE, February 17, 1920.

Reported favorably by the Committee on Federal Relations, read second time and ordered printed for third reading.

By Order: E. R. CROTHERS, Secretary.

*Federal Relations
report adopted
2 November 1920
3 Russ Grason*

3 R Passed

HAMMERMILL
LEADER

Joint Resolution No. 200

HAMMERMILL
LEADER

Joint Resolution No. 2.

CHAPTER 64

JOINT RESOLUTION

ENTITLED

JOINT RESOLUTION of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, rejecting and refusing to ratify an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress, to the Legislatures of the several States.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland has received official notification of the passage by both Houses of the Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of a proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States, in the words following, to wit:

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, 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:

ARTICLE —.

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation.”

Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That we deny that the Congress of the United States has any lawful right or power to propose such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; we deny that the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States have any lawful right or power to adopt such an amendment; and we deny that such an amendment would be validly a part of the Constitution of the United States if thus adopted, for the following reasons:

The avowed purpose of the people of the United States in adopting the Federal Constitution was to establish a perpetual Union of States.

In order that this great purpose might be accomplished, it was essential that each State should be preserved as an indestructible political unit.

In the oft quoted words of the Supreme Court of the United States, their purpose was to establish "an indestructible Union composed of indestructible States."

For "without the States in union, there could be no such political body as the United States."

It is manifest, therefore, that when the people, in this same Federal Constitution, conferred upon Congress and the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States the power to "*amend*" that Constitution, it could not have been their intention to authorize the adoption of any amendment, or any measure under the guise of an amendment, which would wholly or partially destroy the States, by taking away from the States any one of their functions, essential to their separate and independent existence as States.

The right of a State to determine for itself by the vote of its own people, who shall vote at its own State, county and municipal elections is one of those functions.

When we surrender to any outside power the right to say who shall vote at our state elections, we surrender the right to determine who shall govern the State, and, without the right of local self-government, we cease to be a State and become a mere province, with far less power to determine our own destiny than we had prior to the American Revolution, under the charter granted by the British Crown.

Resolved, Further, That the General Assembly of Maryland could not exercise the power to ratify this so-called nineteenth amendment, conferred upon it, or supposed to be conferred upon it, by the fifth Article of the Constitution of the United States, without violating in most flagrant fashion, the Constitution of our own State.

The Constitution of Maryland limits the right of suffrage to men. The people of Maryland have not conferred upon their General Assembly any right to amend that Constitution by extending the franchise to women.

Yet this proposed nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, if adopted and held valid, would, in effect, amend the Constitution of the State of Maryland in that respect and establish woman suffrage in this State, without the consent, and it may be contrary to the wishes of a majority of both the men and women of Maryland.

We conceive that the Members of this General Assembly would be false to their duty to their own people, if not to their official oaths, if they should vote to ratify the proposed Amendment.

Therefore, Be it Further Resolved, That the General Assembly of this State hereby rejects the said nineteenth Article, proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and, on behalf of the State of Maryland, refuses to ratify the same.

Resolved, Further, That we solemnly protest to the Legislatures of those States who have heretofore voted to ratify such Amendment against their action in thus seeking to force this measure upon our people, without their consent, and we earnestly appeal to the Legislatures of those States who have not as yet voted to ratify it, not to do so.

And be it Further Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, duly attested, to the Secretary of State for the United States, our Representatives and Senators in Congress, to the Governors of each of the States and to the presiding officers of each House of the Legislatures thereof.

Approved: MAR 26 1920

.....
Governor.

William I. Morris
.....

President of the Senate.

Millard Espy
.....
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor,

for his approval this 26 day of March 1920

at 1:30 o'clock, P M.

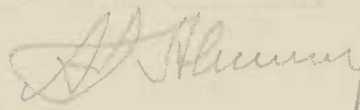
L. P. Crockett
Secretary.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

.....^{3/2}.....1920

Reported favorably from the.....*Federal Relations*
and read the second time

By order



Chief Clerk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

.....1920

Reported favorably from the.....
with amendment; amendment adopted, read the second
time

By order

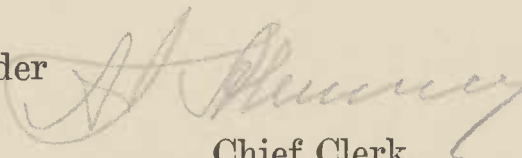
Chief Clerk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

.....^{3/5}.....1920

Read third time and passed by.....Yeas and.....
Nays

By order



Chief Clerk.

BY THE SENATE

.....1920

House amendment Concurred in and bill passed by
Yeas and Nays as amended

By order

Secretary.

Examined by Committee on Printed Bills

.....
Benjamin D. Wolf
Charles E. Gibson
.....

BY THE SENATE

Feb. 24.....1920

Read third time and passed by yeas and nays

By order

C. P. Crockett

Secretary.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Jan.....1920

Read the first time and referred to.....

Federal Relations

By order

A. A. Murray

Chief Clerk.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

March 2, 1920

Favorable Report - by the Committee
on Federal Relations
Charles M. Roberts Chairman.