

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 28

Introduced by Hilkeemann, 4.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, at various times and during various sessions and acting with the best of intentions, previously made applications to the United States Congress to call one or more conventions to propose amendments concerning specific subjects pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, a Legislature may not bind a future Legislature for the very reason that in the course of human events new priorities emerge, what represented positive adaptation at a particular time ceases to do so, and the will of the people of the State of Nebraska changes; and

WHEREAS, no member of the current Legislature has had an opportunity to consider or take a position on the aforementioned resolutions, indeed may not even be aware of their contents; and

WHEREAS, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Warren E. Burger, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Arthur Goldberg, and other leading constitutional scholars agree that such a convention may propose sweeping changes to the Constitution, any limitations or restrictions purportedly imposed by the states in requesting the convention notwithstanding, thereby creating imminent peril to the well-established rights of citizens and the duties of various levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution has been amended many times in the history of this nation and may be amended many more times without the need to resort to a constitutional convention, and has been interpreted for over 200 years and found to be a sound document which protects the lives and liberties of the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is no need for opening the United States Constitution to

sweeping changes; and

WHEREAS, great danger might arise from changes to the United States Constitution, creating legal chaos in this nation and another two centuries of litigation over interpretation of its meaning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That any and all resolutions previously passed by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature petitioning Congress to call a federal constitutional convention are hereby rescinded and deemed null and void.

2. That any and all resolutions passed by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature during or after the current legislative session that petition Congress to call a federal constitutional convention shall be automatically rescinded and deemed null and void if a convention is not called on or before the seventh anniversary of the date the last legislative vote is taken on such resolution.