



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 425**

*January Session, 2015*

House Joint Resolution No. 64

*House of Representatives, April 2, 2015*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the joint resolution ought to be adopted.

***RESOLUTION PETITIONING CONGRESS TO CONVENE AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1       WHEREAS, the first President of the United States, George  
2       Washington, stated, "The basis of our political systems is the right of  
3       the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government.";  
4       and

5       WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the  
6       Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the  
7       United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone"  
8       (The Federalist No. 52, James Madison); and

9       WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on  
10      the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in  
11      elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens  
13 United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed  
14 restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

15 WHEREAS, the removal of these restrictions has resulted in the  
16 unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted  
17 the will of the people by undermining the people's ability to choose  
18 political leadership, write laws and determine the fate of the  
19 government; and

20 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the  
21 United States Congress to call a convention, upon application of the  
22 legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, for the purpose of  
23 proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

24 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut sees the need for a convention  
25 to propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those  
26 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens  
27 United v. Federal Election Commission and related cases and events,  
28 including those occurring long before or afterward or for a  
29 substantially similar purpose and desires that said convention should  
30 be so limited; and

31 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut desires that the delegates to  
32 said convention shall be comprised equally of individuals currently  
33 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in each  
34 Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though  
35 all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the  
36 past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention and  
37 intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its  
38 delegates within the limits expressed above; and

39 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut intends that this be a  
40 continuing application considered together with applications calling  
41 for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454,  
42 the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 2013-  
43 2014 Illinois legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42 and all other

44 similar passed, pending and future applications, the aforementioned  
45 concerns of Connecticut notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds  
46 of the several states have applied for a convention and said convention  
47 is convened by Congress.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the people of the State  
49 of Connecticut speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to  
50 Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby petitions the United  
51 States Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing  
52 amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America as  
53 soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention;  
54 and

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of  
56 Representatives and the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the  
57 President of the United States; the Vice President of the United States  
58 in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate and  
59 addressed to him at the office he maintains in the United States Capitol  
60 Building; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
61 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the  
62 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, each Senator and  
63 Representative from Connecticut in the Congress of the United States  
64 with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this  
65 resolution be printed in the Congressional Record; and the Governor  
66 of each state and the presiding officers of each legislative body of each  
67 of the several states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing  
68 an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing  
69 amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	10

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

There would be a cost of approximately \$10 in FY 16 for the Office of Legislative Management (OLM) to mail copies of this resolution to the President, the Vice President, the leadership positions in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and each member of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

**The Out Years**

As this is a one-time expenditure, there would be no future costs.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HJ 64**

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**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Resolutions.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 8      Nay 7      (03/18/2015)