

**HCR 5 - AS INTRODUCED**

2015 SESSION

15-0799  
05/04

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION      **5**

A RESOLUTION      calling for an article V convention for the purpose of considering a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution.

SPONSORS:      Rep. Ulery, Hills 37

COMMITTEE:      Legislative Administration

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ANALYSIS

This resolution calls for an article V convention for the purpose of considering a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

A RESOLUTION calling for an article V convention for the purpose of considering a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution.

1       Whereas, all governing power under the United States Constitution originates from the people  
2 and the states; and

3       Whereas, the United States Constitution delegates certain limited powers to the legislative,  
4 executive, and judicial branches of the federal government; and

5       Whereas, the tenth amendment to the United States Constitution reserves all non-delegated  
6 powers to the states and the people; and

7       Whereas, the United States Congress has, at times, exceeded its delegated powers and otherwise  
8 passed laws injurious to the states and the people; and

9       Whereas, the President of the United States has, at times, exceeded the executive's  
10 constitutional authority and taken actions injurious to the states and the people by issuing certain  
11 executive orders, failing or refusing to enforce certain laws duly passed by Congress, issuing waivers  
12 from compliance with federal statutes, and directing federal administrative agencies to impose rules  
13 and regulations contrary to federal statutes; and

14       Whereas, federal courts have, at times, exceeded their authority by issuing decisions not  
15 grounded in the United States Constitution, by issuing decisions on public policy matters reserved to  
16 the states in violation of principles of federalism and separation of powers, and otherwise issuing  
17 decisions injurious to the states and the people; and

18       Whereas, federal administrative agencies have, at times, issued rules and regulations beyond  
19 their statutory authority and have otherwise issued rules and regulations or taken other actions  
20 injurious to the states and the people; and

21       Whereas, article V of the United States Constitution states: "The Congress, whenever two thirds  
22 of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the  
23 application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing  
24 amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this  
25 Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states; and

26       Whereas, article V of the United States Constitution reserves to the states and the people a final  
27 check on the usurpation, misuse, or abuse of federal power; and

28       Whereas, the states have the sole authority to define and limit the agenda of a convention of the  
29 states and may limit the agenda to adoption of a single proposed amendment to the United States  
30 Constitution; and

31       Whereas, under authority of article V of the United States Constitution, the several states should  
32 apply to Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing and adopting a

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1 countermand amendment to the United States Constitution; and

2       Whereas, a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution would authorize the  
3 states, upon a vote by three-fifths of the state legislatures to override and invalidate a congressional  
4 statute, executive order, federal court decision, or administrative agency rule, regulation, or other  
5 action deemed injurious to the states and the people; and

6       Whereas, the states, by adopting a countermand amendment, properly exercise their  
7 constitutional authority to check federal power, preserve state sovereignty, and protect the rights of  
8 the states and the people; and

9       Whereas, delegates to a convention of the states called for the sole purpose of considering and  
10 adopting a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution would be prohibited from  
11 considering any other amendment or change to the Constitution; now, therefore be it

12       Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

13       That the New Hampshire general court, under the authority of article V of the United States  
14 Constitution, hereby applies to Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of  
15 considering and adopting a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution, with the  
16 delegates to such convention prohibited from considering any other amendment or change to the  
17 Constitution; and

18       That the general court strongly urges the other state legislatures each to pass a similar  
19 resolution applying to Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of considering  
20 and adopting a countermand amendment to the United States Constitution; and

21       That the general court directs that Congress call a convention of the states, for the sole purpose  
22 of considering and adopting a countermand amendment, within 60 days after receiving the 34th  
23 state application for such convention; and

24       That the house clerk send a copy of this resolution to the leader of each legislative house in each  
25 of the other states, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
26 United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the  
27 United States Supreme Court, and the members of New Hampshire's congressional delegation.