

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

SJR 3

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5 By: Senators G. Stubblefield, Caldwell, Hickey, Hill, Rice, Flipppo, A. Clark, Hester, B. Ballinger, Rapert,  
6 D. Wallace, Bledsoe, K. Hammer, J. Cooper, T. Garner, Irvin, B. Davis

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

9 APPLYING TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CALL A  
10 CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO  
11 ARTICLE V OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, LIMITED  
12 TO PROPOSING AMENDMENTS THAT IMPOSE FISCAL RESTRAINTS  
13 ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LIMIT THE POWER AND  
14 JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND LIMIT THE  
15 TERMS OF OFFICE FOR ITS OFFICIALS AND FOR MEMBERS OF  
16 THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

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**Subtitle**

20 APPLYING TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO  
21 CALL A CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING  
22 AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE  
23 UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

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26 WHEREAS, the founders of the United States Constitution empowered state  
27 legislators to be guardians of liberty against excessive use of power by the  
28 federal government; and

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30 WHEREAS, the federal government has created a crushing national debt  
31 through improper and imprudent spending; and

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33 WHEREAS, the federal government has ceased to operate under a proper  
34 interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

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36 WHEREAS, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the



1 states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which  
2 are unfunded to a great extent; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of  
5 our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments  
6 to the United States Constitution through a convention of the states under  
7 Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of restraining  
8 these and related abuses of power,

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10 NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
12 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
13 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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15 THAT the General Assembly hereby applies to the United States Congress,  
16 under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the  
17 calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the  
18 United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal  
19 government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and  
20 limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of the United  
21 States Congress.

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate is hereby  
24 directed to transmit copies of this application to the President of the  
25 United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
26 of the United States House of Representatives, the Clerk of the United States  
27 House of Representatives, the members of the Arkansas congressional  
28 delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures in  
29 the several states, requesting their cooperation.

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this application constitutes a continuing  
32 application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution  
33 until the legislatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the several states  
34 have made applications on the same subject.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly adopts this

1 application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings,  
2 and declarations:

3 (1) An application to the United States Congress to call an  
4 amendment convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the United States  
5 Constitution confers no power to the United States Congress other than the  
6 power to call such a convention. The power of the United States Congress to  
7 exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to name a  
8 reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a convention;

9 (2) The United States Congress shall perform its ministerial  
10 duty of calling an amendment convention of the states only upon the receipt  
11 of applications for an amendment convention for the substantially same  
12 purpose as this application from two-thirds (2/3) of the legislatures of the  
13 several states;

14 (3) The United States Congress does not have the power or  
15 authority to determine any rules for the governing of a convention for  
16 proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States  
17 Constitution. The United States Congress does not have the power to set the  
18 number of delegates to be sent by any state to such a convention, nor does it  
19 have the power to name delegates to such a convention. The power to name  
20 delegates remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the  
21 several states;

22 (4) By definition, an amendment convention of the states means  
23 that states shall vote on the basis of one (1) state, one (1) vote;

24 (5) A convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to  
25 this application shall be limited to consideration of the topics specified  
26 herein and no other. This application is made with the express understanding  
27 that an amendment that in any way seeks to amend, modify, or repeal any  
28 provision of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution shall not  
29 be authorized for consideration at any stage. This application shall be void  
30 ab initio if ever used at any stage to consider any change to any provision  
31 of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution;

32 (6) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution,  
33 the United States Congress may determine whether proposed amendments shall be  
34 ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state  
35 ratification conventions. The General Assembly recommends that the United  
36 States Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several

1 states; and

2 (7) The General Assembly may provide further instructions to its  
3 delegates and may recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or  
4 a violation of the instructions provided.

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