SLS 18RS-2795 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY SENATOR CARTER

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Section 1); and

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to call a convention to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will restore elections strong in individual participation and engagement.

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the Congress of the United States to call a limited national convention of states for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States 3 Constitution that will restore elections strong in individual participation and 4 5 engagement. WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana seeks to address the influence of special 6 7 interests, the few corporations, and rare individuals who choose to use their money to corrupt 8 and distort our republic and markets; and 9 WHEREAS, Louisiana acknowledges the importance of individual liberty and 10 recognizes that it is threatened by special interests that use their power, gained without 11 transparency, to create an imbalance that no longer allows the citizens of Louisiana their right to representation; and 12 13 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America intended 14 that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone" (James Madison, Federalist 52); and, the Constitution of the state of Louisiana states that "all 15

government, of right, originates with the people, is founded on their will alone, and is

instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole" (Article I,

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WHEREAS, James Madison, in 1830, penned, "Should the provisions of the

Constitution as here reviewed, be found not to secure the Government and rights of the

States, against usurpations and abuses on the part of the United States, the final resort within

the purview of the Constitution, lies in an amendment of the Constitution, according to a

process applicable by the States"; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature perceives the need for an amendments convention in order to restore transparency, balance, and integrity to our elections by proposing an amendment to the federal Constitution that will permanently protect representative elections in America by addressing, *inter alia*, issues raised by the decisions of the *United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) 130 S.Ct. 876, and related cases and events, and desires that said convention should be so limited; and

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

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana intends that this be a continuing application considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose and said convention is convened by Congress.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana, as representatives of the people of Louisiana, hereby memorializes and applies to the Congress of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that will restore elections strong in individual participation and

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engagement, as described herein, as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana respectfully requests that the full and complete text of this Resolution be printed in the *Congressional Record*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges the legislatures of each of the several states comprising the United States of America issue an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the president of the United States, the vice president of the United States in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the president pro tempore of the United States Senate, the secretary of the United States Senate, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the minority leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

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Carter

Memorializes and applies to Congress, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, to call a convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will restore elections strong in individual participation and engagement as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose.

Requests that the full and complete text of this Resolution be printed in the Congressional Record.

Urges other state legislatures to issue an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.