2026 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY SENATOR CATHEY

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to implement legislation to require candidates for the United States House of Representatives to reside within the congressional district they seek to represent.

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |

2   To memorialize the Congress of the United States to immediately address the growing

3   practice of congressional "carpetbagging" by proposing and enacting legislation, or

4   a constitutional amendment if necessary, to require candidates for the United States

5   House of Representatives to reside within the congressional district they seek to

6   represent.

7   WHEREAS, the United States Constitution establishes minimum

8   qualifications for service in the United States House of Representatives but does not

9   require residency within the congressional district a candidate seeks to represent; and

10   WHEREAS, this omission has increasingly been exploited by political

11   opportunists who seek office in districts where they do not live, have not invested

12   their lives, and to which they have little or no genuine connection; and

13   WHEREAS, these practices undermine the foundational principle of

14   representative government by allowing individuals to seek election to represent

15   communities they neither reside in nor meaningfully understand; and

16   WHEREAS, residents of Louisiana's congressional districts rightly expect

17   that those who seek to represent them in Congress live among them, share their daily

18   challenges, and are accountable to the same local conditions, schools, infrastructure,

1   and economies as the people they serve; and

2   WHEREAS, the practice of candidates shopping for congressional districts

3   erodes public trust, diminishes voter confidence, and weakens the legitimacy of

4   federal representation; and

5   WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires residency for numerous state and local

6   offices, recognizing that true representation demands proximity, familiarity, and

7   shared community interests; and

8   WHEREAS, congressional representation should be no less accountable to

9   the people than representation at the state or local level; and

10   WHEREAS, failure to address this issue invites continued abuse of the

11   electoral process and a further disconnect between the governed and those who seek

12   to govern them.

13   THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby

14   memorializes the Congress of the United States to immediately propose and enact

15   legislation, or pursue a constitutional amendment if required, establishing a

16   mandatory residency requirement for candidates seeking election to the United States

17   House of Representatives, requiring these candidates to reside within the

18   congressional district they seek to represent for a defined and reasonable period prior

19   to qualifying for office.

20   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges

21   Congress to act without delay to assure congressional representation involves

22   common sense residency requirements employing the same clearly mapped

23   geographical borders utilized in nearly all other local and state public offices

24   throughout the United States of America.

25   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted

26   to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of

27   Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the

28   Louisiana congressional delegation.

29   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be

30   transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United

1   States House of Representatives.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof
or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SCR 9 Original   2026 Regular Session   Cathey

Memorializes Congress to pass legislation to require candidates for election to the U.S.
House of Representatives to reside in the congressional district they seek to represent.