

**CHAPTER 326****RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT TO UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION  
REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL COMPENSATION***H.J.R. 7*

**A JOINT RESOLUTION** ratifying a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for a delay in an increase in compensation to members of congress until an intervening election of representatives has occurred.

WHEREAS, The First Congress of the United States of America, at its first session, sitting in New York, New York, on September 25, 1789, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, has proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America in the following words:

“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled two-thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following (Article) be proposed to the legislatures of the several states, as (an Amendment) to the Constitution of the United States, . . . which (Article), when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz;

“(An Article) in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

**“ARTICLE**

“No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.”

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States allows the ratification of the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States has already been ratified by the Legislatures of the following States in the years indicated: Maryland in 1789; North Carolina in 1789; South Carolina in 1790; Delaware in 1790; Vermont in 1791; Virginia in 1791; Ohio in 1873; Wyoming in 1978; Maine in 1983; Colorado in 1984; South Dakota in 1985; New Hampshire in 1985; Arizona in 1985; Tennessee in 1985; Oklahoma in 1985; New Mexico in 1986; Indiana in 1986; Utah in 1986; Montana in 1987; Connecticut in 1987; Arkansas in 1987; Wisconsin in 1987; Georgia in 1988; West Virginia in 1988; and Louisiana in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States does not state a time limit on ratification of an amendment submitted by Congress, and the First Congress specifically did not provide a time limit for ratification of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has ruled in Coleman v. Miller, 307 U.S. 433 (1939), that an amendment to the United States Constitution may be ratified by States at any time, and Congress must then finally decide whether a reasonable time had elapsed since its submission when, in the presence of certified ratifications by three-fourths of the States, the time arrives for the promulgation of the adoption of the amendment; NOW THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:**

That the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby ratified and consented to by the State of Iowa and the General Assembly thereof; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Governor of the State of Iowa forward certified copies of this resolution over the seal of the State of Iowa to the Archivist of the United States, and to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the General Assembly of the State of Iowa urges the State Legislatures of those States which have not done so to follow Iowa in ratifying the proposed amendment and that, as an incentive for them to do so, copies of the foregoing preamble and resolution be transmitted to those State Legislatures.