

House Joint Resolution 7 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7
BY HIGHFILL

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa allowing the general assembly to
3 provide for the reorganization of counties.
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 30 of Article III of the Constitution of the
4 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu
5 thereof:

6 **Local or special laws — general and uniform — boundaries of**
7 **counties.** SEC. 30. The general assembly shall not pass local
8 or special laws in the following cases:

9 For the assessment and collection of taxes for state, county,
10 or road purposes;

11 For laying out, opening, and working roads or highways;

12 For changing the names of persons;

13 For the incorporation of cities and towns;

14 For vacating roads, town plats, streets, alleys, or public
15 squares;

16 For locating or changing county seats, except when located or
17 changed coincident to the reorganization of counties.

18 In all the cases above enumerated, and, in all other cases,
19 except for laws enacted pursuant to Article XI, section 2,
20 where a general law can be made applicable, all laws shall be
21 general, and of uniform operation throughout the state.

22 2. Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State
23 of Iowa is repealed beginning with the second Monday in January
24 2021 and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

25 **Counties.** SEC. 2. The general assembly may by law provide
26 for the direct or procedural reorganization of counties.

27 3. Section 8 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State
28 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

29 **Seat of government established — state university.** SEC.

30 8. The seat of government is hereby permanently established,
31 as now fixed by law, at the city of Des Moines; and the state
32 university, at Iowa City.

33 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed
34 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred
35 to the general assembly to be chosen at the next general

1 election for members of the general assembly, and the secretary
2 of state is directed to cause the proposed amendment to be
3 published for three consecutive months previous to the date of
4 that election as provided by law.

5

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
9 Constitution of the State of Iowa allowing the general assembly
10 to enact legislation for the reorganization of counties
11 beginning in January 2021. The proposed amendment also
12 allows that general assembly to locate and change county seats
13 coincident to the reorganization of counties.

14 The proposed amendment repeals provisions requiring that no
15 new county shall be created containing less than 432 square
16 miles and that the territory of certain counties not be reduced
17 below that area. The proposed amendment maintains current
18 constitutional requirements that the seat of government and the
19 state university be permanently established in Des Moines and
20 Iowa City, respectively, but removes reference to the counties
21 in which those cities are currently located.

22 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
23 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the
24 electorate for ratification.