

**Senate Joint Resolution 5 - Introduced**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5  
BY KNOX

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa eliminating involuntary servitude as a  
3 punishment for crime.  
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

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

3 Section 23 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of  
4 Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 Sec. 23. **Slavery — involuntary servitude.** There shall be no  
6 slavery in this state, nor shall there be involuntary servitude.  
7 Upon conviction of a crime, an Iowa court or an Iowa probation  
8 or parole agency may order the convicted person to engage in  
9 community service or another alternative to incarceration as part  
10 of sentencing for the crime in accordance with programs that have  
11 been in place historically or that may be developed in the future  
12 to provide accountability, reformation, protection of society, or  
13 rehabilitation.

14 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed  
15 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred  
16 to the general assembly to be chosen at the next general election  
17 for members of the general assembly, and shall be published as  
18 provided by law for three months previous to the date of that  
19 election.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
24 Constitution of the State of Iowa eliminating involuntary  
25 servitude as a legal punishment for crime.

26 The resolution provides that an Iowa court or an Iowa  
27 probation or parole agency may order community service or another  
28 alternative to incarceration.

29 The resolution, if adopted, would be published and then  
30 referred to the next general assembly (92nd) for adoption, before  
31 being submitted to the electorate for ratification.