Reconstruction Amendments and The Bill of Rights



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The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights was written in the summer of 1789 by the newly elected Congress, two years after the Constitution itself had been written. On 28 September 1789, following the report of the Committee for Enrolled Bills, the amendments agreed by both houses of Congress were referred to the individual state legislatures. Of the twelve amendments referred, ten were ratified by the states and comprise the Bill of Rights. This collection nevertheless sheds new light on the way that the language of the Bill of Rights evolved, and enables a reader to understand the context within which particular decisions were made.



Navigating to Madison's Proposed Amendments















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Madison's Proposed Amendments



Madison's Proposed Amendments

Document Timeline

• Madison's Proposed Amendments (introduced on 1789-06-08 11:00:00 - CREATE - e126020) [This document] [view current proposal at this moment]

- None (introduced on 1789-06-08 11:00:00 REPORT_PROPOSAL e126034) [view current proposal at this moment]
- Gerry's Motion to Bring State Amendments Forward (introduced on 1789-07-21 11:00:00 PROCEDURE e126076) [view current proposal at this moment]
 - None (introduced on 1789-07-21 11:00:00 DEBATE_MOTION e126077) [view current proposal at this moment]
 - None (introduced on 1789-07-21 11:00:00 ADOPT_PROPOSAL e126078) [view current proposal at this moment]
- None (introduced on 1789-07-21 11:00:00 REPORT_PROPOSAL e126079) [view current proposal at this moment]

Session #: <u>s4886</u> Event #: <u>e126020</u>

What differences do you see between Madison's Proposal and the Bill of Rights as we know them today?

What similarities?

The Civil Rights Amendments

Beginning with the proceedings debating the failed Corwin Amendment in 1861 and ending with the drafting of the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the Quill Reconstruction Projects illustrate a legislative story of emancipation, civil rights, and the reunification of the Union after the Civil War.



The Civil Rights Amendments

Constitutional reform and civil rights 1860-1875 (PREVIEW RELEASE: collection under construction)

VIEW COLLECTION

Compare H. Res. 63 and the first section of H. Res. 127.

- What is different between the two texts?
- What do you think are some implications of those differences?

Hint: Keep in mind, H. Res. 63 is a failed draft and H. Res. 127 is a referred document.



EXPAND TEXT BREAKDOWN VIEW ↔

AGREED 1	ГЕХТ
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INTERMEDIATE TEXT

PROPOSED TEXT

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, viz:

ARTICLE -.

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to secure to the citizens of each State all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States; and to all persons in the several States equal protection in the rights of life, liberty, and property.



EXPAND TEXT BREAKDOWN VIEW ++

AGREED TEXT	INTERMEDIATE TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
JOINT RESOLUTION		
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the U	nited States.	
	ives of the United States of America in Congress assembled several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the ution, namely:	
ARTICLE		
	all abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the U r deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protec	
whole number of persons in each State, excluding India not less than twenty-one years of age, or in any way ab	e several States which may be included within this Union a ans not taxed. But whenever in any State the elective franci oridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, itizens shall bear to the whole number of such male citizen	hise shall be denied to any portion of its male citizens the basis of representation in such State shall be
	isand eight hundred and seventy, all persons who voluntari epresentatives in Congress and for electors for President an	
SEC. 4. Neither the United States nor any State shall as of war against the United States, or any claim for comp	sume or pay any debt or obligation already incurred, or whi pensation for loss of involuntary service or labor.	ch may hereafter be incurred, in aid of insurrection or
SEC. 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce by app	propriate legislation the provisions of this article.	

Comparing Two Documents

Document	Who proposes the amendment to the Constitution?	What are key phrases in the document?
1. For H. Res. 63 Event #: <u>e899167</u>	Reported by Mr. Bingham from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction	The Congress shall have power to make all laws
2. For H. Res. 127 Event #: <u>e896844</u>	Reported by Mr. Stevens from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction	No State shall make or enforce any law