

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution provides two methods by which the Constitution may be amended: by presentation of an amendment by Congress to the states for ratification and by Constitutional Convention, convened at the request of the state legislatures; and

Whereas, to date, the Constitution has been amended only by means of the first method, with many experts suggesting that a Constitutional Convention contains the inherent danger of altering the Constitution more extensively than the proponents of the Convention might have intended; and

Whereas, by providing both methods of amending the Constitution, the Framers clearly intended to provide a mechanism by which the several states could initiate the Constitutional amendment process but did not anticipate the later reluctance to convene a Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, House Joint Resolution No. 84, introduced in the 105th Congress by Virginia Congressman Tom Bliley and cosponsored by Virginia Congressman Virgil Goode, proposes a process by which the states could initiate the amending process without the perils of a Constitutional Convention; and

Whereas, under the proposal, "two thirds of the legislatures of the several states may propose an amendment to the Constitution by enacting identical legislation in each such legislature proposing the amendment"; and

Whereas, if two-thirds of the House and Senate did not vote to disapprove of the proposed amendment, it would be submitted to the states for ratification, and upon ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures, the amendment would become part of the Constitution; and

Whereas, Congressman Bliley's Constitutional Amendment is a reasonable and prudent proposal to provide the states with a means of modifying the Constitution of the United States, thus providing the states an option that the Framers clearly intended; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* By the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby urge the Congress to approve House Joint Resolution No. 84, which proposes an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide a means by which the states can initiate the amendment process without the necessity of a Constitutional Convention; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Congressional delegation of Virginia so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with amendments:

S. 1415: A bill to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations: Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees on Budget Totals From the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1999" (Rept. 105-191).

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

Douglas S. Eakeley, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 1999. (Reappointment)

Jeanne Hurley Simon, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a term expiring July 19, 2002. (Reappointment)

Cyril Kent McGuire, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

William James Ivey, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Raymond L. Bramucci, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Seth D. Harris, of New York, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Robert H. Beatty, Jr., of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring August 30, 2004. (Reappointment)

Thomas Ehrlich, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years. (Reappointment)

Dorothy A. Johnson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years.

Rita R. Colwell, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Science Foundation for a term of six years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2079. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to replace the dependent care credit for children age 5 and under with an increase in the amount of the child tax credit for such children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. REID, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ROTH, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. 2080. A bill to provide for the President to increase support to the democratic opposition in Cuba, to authorize support under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 for the provision and transport of increased humanitarian assistance directly to the oppressed people of Cuba to help them regain their freedom, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2081. A bill to guarantee the long-term national security of the United States by investing in a robust Defense Science and Technology Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. 2082. A bill to amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to provide authority to fix rates and fees for domestic and international postal services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2083. A bill to provide for Federal class action reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2084. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to cease mineral leasing activity on submerged land of the Outer Continental Shelf that is adjacent to a coastal State that has declared a moratorium on mineral exploration, development, or production activity in adjacent State waters; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON:

S. 2085. A bill to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against Government bureaucracy; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economic harm on employers; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Con. Res. 96. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued honoring Oskar Schindler; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2079. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to replace the dependent care credit for children age 5 and under with an increase in the amount of the child tax credit for such children; to the Committee on Finance.

## CHILD TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to introduce legislation to change the Tax Code to put stay-at-home moms and dads on an equal footing with two-income families. My legislation is cosponsored by Senators HATCH, GRAMS, WYDEN, and ABRAHAM. This legislation that we introduce will