

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 199

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to temporarily fill vacancies in the House of Representatives to further the continuity of Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 2, 2026

Mr. TIMMONS (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to temporarily fill vacancies in the House of Representatives to further the continuity of Congress.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-*
3 *thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
7 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
8 States within seven years after the date of its submission
9 for ratification:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Immediately after taking the oath of of-
3 fice, an individual who is elected to serve as a Representa-
4 tive in the House of Representatives shall provide the
5 House of Representatives with a list of at least five des-
6 ignees to take the individual’s place in the event the indi-
7 vidual dies prior to the expiration of the individual’s term
8 of office. The individual shall ensure that the list only con-
9 tains the names of designees who meet the qualifications
10 for service as a Representative in the House of Represent-
11 atives.

12 “SECTION 2. In the event of the death of a Rep-
13 resentative, the chief executive of the State involved shall,
14 not later than 10 days after the date of the death of the
15 Representative, select an individual from the most recent
16 list of designees provided by the Representative whose seat
17 is now vacant, as provided by section 1, and the Speaker
18 of the House shall immediately fill the vacancy with the
19 individual selected. An individual designated to take the
20 place of a Representative shall serve until another Member
21 is elected to fill the vacancy pursuant to a special election.

22 “SECTION 3. During the period of an individual’s
23 service under section 2, the individual shall be treated as
24 a Representative in the House of Representatives for pur-
25 poses of all laws, rules, and regulations, including for pur-

1 poses of section 1. In the event of the death of an indi-
2 vidual designated under section 2, the chief executive of
3 the State involved shall select an individual from the most
4 recent list of designees provided by the individual des-
5 ignated under section 2, as provided by section 1, and the
6 Speaker of the House shall immediately fill the vacancy
7 with the individual selected.”.

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