



## 2020 South Dakota Legislature

# House Joint Resolution 5001

*Introduced by: Representative Steele*

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION, To apply for a convention of states under Article V of the**  
 2 **Constitution of the United States to impose fiscal restraints on the federal**  
 3 **government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government,**  
 4 **and to limit the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress.**

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF SOUTH  
 6 DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

7 WHEREAS, the founders of the Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians  
 8 of liberty against the future abuses of power by the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper  
 10 and imprudent spending; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the state through  
 12 the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent;  
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the  
 15 Constitution of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people,  
 17 particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the  
 18 United States through a convention of the states under Article V for the purpose of restraining  
 19 these and related abuses of power:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth  
 21 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
 22 of the State of South Dakota hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of  
 23 the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to  
 24 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints

1 on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and  
2 limit the terms of office for federal officials and for members of Congress; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of state is hereby directed to transmit  
4 copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to  
5 the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; and copies to the  
6 members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from this state; and also  
7 to transmit copies to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several  
8 states, requesting their cooperation; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application constitutes a continuing application in  
10 accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at  
11 least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject or until ten  
12 years from the date of its passage, whichever occurs first; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature adopts this application expressly subject  
14 to the following reservations, understandings, and declarations:

- 15 (1) An application to the Congress of the United States to call an amendment  
16 convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution  
17 confers no power to Congress other than the power to call the convention. The  
18 power of Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority  
19 to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a convention;
- 20 (2) Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling a convention of the states only  
21 upon the receipt of applications for a convention for the substantially same purpose  
22 as this application from two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states;
- 23 (3) Congress does not have the power or authority to determine any rules for the  
24 governing of a convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V  
25 of the United States Constitution. Congress does not have the power to set the  
26 number of delegates to be sent by any state to the convention, nor does it have  
27 the power to name delegates to the convention. The power to name delegates  
28 remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;
- 29 (4) By definition, an amendment convention of the states means that states shall vote  
30 on the basis of one state, one vote;
- 31 (5) A convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to this application  
32 must be limited to consideration of the topics specified herein and no other. This  
33 application is made with the express understanding that an amendment that in any

- 1 way seeks to amend, modify, or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights is not  
2 authorized for consideration at any stage. This application is void ab initio if ever  
3 used at any stage to consider any change to any provision of the Bill of Rights;
- 4 (6) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, Congress may determine  
5 whether proposed amendments must be ratified by the legislatures of the several  
6 states or by special state ratification conventions. The Legislature recommends  
7 Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several states; and
- 8 (7) The Legislature may provide further instructions to the state's delegates and may  
9 recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the  
10 instructions provided.