

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION**

S.F. No. 3920

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/09/2018	7258	Introduction and first reading Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A joint resolution

1.2 applying to Congress to call a constitutional convention to propose an amendment to

1.3 the Constitution of the United States to provide that every law enacted by Congress

1.4 shall embrace only one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

1.5 WHEREAS, each measure before a legislative body should pass on its own merits without

1.6 depending on legislative support for other unrelated measures to achieve the required number of

1.7 votes for passage; and

1.8 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional provision addresses this concern by prohibiting

1.9 a legislative body from enacting a law that embraces more than one subject; and

1.10 WHEREAS, at least 41 of the 50 states, including Minnesota, have a single-subject provision

1.11 in their respective state constitutions, and the legislatures and citizens of these states have benefited

1.12 from a single-subject requirement; and

1.13 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of

1.14 America, touching the lives of every citizen in the several states, but is missing this important

1.15 provision; and

1.16 WHEREAS, our great country is deep in debt and Congress is currently searching for a

1.17 solution; and

1.18 WHEREAS, a federal single-subject amendment would provide the means to limit pork barrel

1.19 spending, control the phenomenon of legislating through riders, limit omnibus legislation produced

1.20 by logrolling, prevent public surprise, and increase the institutional accountability of Congress and

1.21 its members; and

1.22 WHEREAS, it is Minnesota's hope and desire that Congress will be able to conduct its

1.23 business in a more productive, efficient, transparent, and less acrimonious way with a single-subject

1.24 requirement; and

2.1 WHEREAS, under article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Congress, on the
2.2 application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing
2.3 amendments to the Constitution of the United States; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it applies to the Congress
2.5 of the United States to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment
2.6 to the Constitution of the United States that provides:

2.7 (1) That the Legislature of the State of Minnesota applies to the Congress of the United States
2.8 pursuant to article V of the Constitution of the United States to call a convention for the sole purpose
2.9 of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that Congress shall
2.10 pass no bill, and no bill shall become law, that embraces more than one subject, that subject to be
2.11 clearly expressed in the bill's title.

2.12 (2) That this memorial is revoked and withdrawn, retroactive to the date of passage, if it is
2.13 used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in support of conducting a convention to amend
2.14 the Constitution of the United States for any purpose other than requiring that every law enacted
2.15 by Congress embrace only one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title.

2.16 (3) That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with article V of
2.17 the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have
2.18 made applications on the same subject.

2.19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of Minnesota is directed to prepare
2.20 copies of this resolution and transmit it to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of
2.21 Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the United States
2.22 Secretary of State, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.