

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951  
judiciary.house.gov

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Cheryl L. Johnson  
Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, Room H154  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Clerk:

Pursuant to section 3(m) of House Resolution 8 (117<sup>th</sup> Congress), I hereby designate the attached Memorial from the State of New Jersey, received by the House of Representatives in the month of January 2022, as purporting to be a rescission of a prior application of the state legislature calling for a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution, and I request that you make it publicly available electronically on the website of the Clerk. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman



**NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

STATE HOUSE

P.O. Box 098

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0098

(609) 847-3115

**DANA M. BURLEY**

*Clerk of the General Assembly*

December 20, 2021

The Honorable Cheryl L. Jackson  
Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives  
United States Capitol  
Room H154  
Washington, DC 20515-6601

Dear Madam Clerk:

The New Jersey General Assembly has adopted the following resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution - 161

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In accordance with the directions contained therein, I am forwarding a copy to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana M. Burley" followed by a stylized flourish.

Dana M. Burley

Clerk of the General Assembly

Enclosure

DMB/JVC

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 161**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Senator NIA H. GILL**

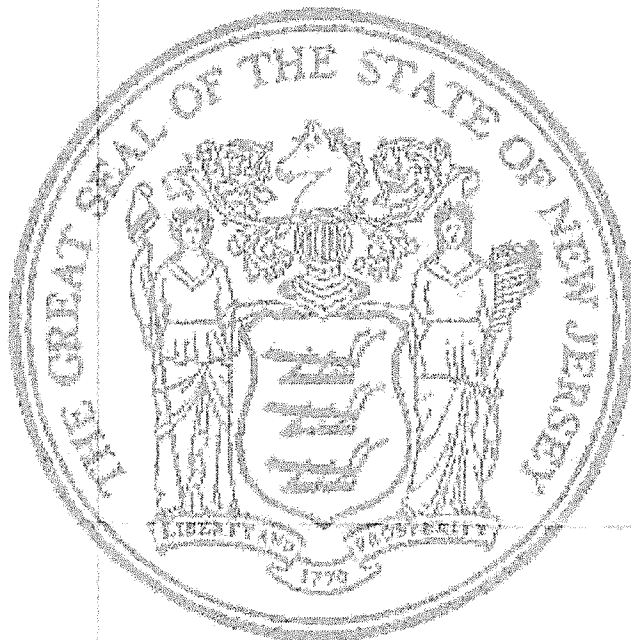
**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Rescinds all applications previously transmitted by the New Jersey Legislature to Congress calling for constitutional convention.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

SCR161 SWEENEY, GILL

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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION rescinding all applications  
2 previously transmitted by the New Jersey Legislature to the  
3 Congress of the United States calling for a convention for the  
4 purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the  
5 United States.

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
8 General Assembly concurring):

9

10 1. All applications previously transmitted by the New Jersey  
11 Legislature to the Congress of the United States calling for a  
12 convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the  
13 United States Constitution are hereby rescinded.

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15 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
16 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
17 Secretary of the Senate to the Clerk of the United States House of  
18 Representatives and to the Secretary of the United States Senate in  
19 Washington, D.C.

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STATEMENT

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24 Article V of the United States Constitution provides that on the  
25 application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States, Congress  
26 shall call a convention for proposing amendments to the  
27 Constitution which will become valid when ratified by the  
28 Legislatures of three-fourths of the states or by conventions in  
29 three-fourths of the states. Although Congress has never called a  
30 convention, it has received hundreds of petitions from state  
31 legislatures over two centuries calling for conventions to address  
32 various issues.

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Research indicates that New Jersey has submitted at least eight such  
petitions. Unfortunately, legal experts disagree about both the  
longevity of these petitions and as to whether a convention called  
for a particular purpose may consider amendments beyond the  
scope of that purpose. There appears to be some risk, therefore,  
that past petitions could become part of the basis for calling a  
convention which addresses issues never contemplated by the  
legislators voting for such petitions. Accordingly, this resolution  
would rescind all petitions previously passed by the New Jersey  
Legislature in order to prevent potential misuse of those petitions.