

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 653 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, SHAPIRO, BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GERBER, GIBBONS, GRUCELA, HANNA, JOSEPHS, KORTZ, LENTZ, LEVDANSKY, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MOUL, PASHINSKI, SIPTROTH, M. SMITH, STABACK, SWANGER, R. TAYLOR, VITALI AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 9, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, MARCH 9, 2010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Petitioning the Congress of the United States to call a
 2 convention to amend the Constitution of the United States on
 3 the subject of election spending.

4 WHEREAS, Federal and state campaign finance reform laws
 5 enacted over the last 40 years have, *inter alia*, limited or
 6 barred campaign funding from certain sources and limited the
 7 timing of expenditures intended to influence elections; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court in announcing its
 9 decision in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election*
 10 *Commission* effectively nullified key provisions of such campaign
 11 finance reform enacted by the United States Congress; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has effectively
 13 taken a large step toward the deregulation of the electoral
 14 process; and

15 WHEREAS, Though that decision addresses Federal elections, it
 16 reasonably may be expected that, throughout the country,

1 existing state and local spending limits could be vitiated and
2 that all new proposals to limit contributions and spending could
3 be jeopardized; and

4 WHEREAS, The ever-mounting cost of political campaigns poses
5 a significant barrier to broad participation in the political
6 process on the Federal, state and local levels; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly,
8 under Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
9 petition Congress to call a convention for proposing the
10 following amendment to the United States Constitution:

11 "AMENDMENT XXVIII

12 Section 1. Congress shall have the power to limit the
13 contributions to or expenditures by any person or committee made
14 in support of, in opposition to, or to influence in any way the
15 nomination or election of any person to Federal office.

16 Section 2. Each State shall have the power to limit the
17 contributions to or expenditures by any person or committee made
18 in support of, in opposition to, or to influence the nomination
19 or election of any person to State or local office.

20 Section 3. Congress and the States shall have the power to
21 enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

22 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly memorialize the
23 legislatures of all the other states to petition Congress in
24 accordance with this resolution.

25 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
26 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
27 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
29 the presiding officers of each legislative chamber in every
30 other state.