

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 195**

Introduced by Halloran, 33; Bostelman, 23; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41;  
Clements, 2; Erdman, 47; Friesen, 34; Gragert, 40; Hansen,  
B., 16; Kolterman, 24; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; Lowe,  
37; McDonnell, 5; Murman, 38; Slama, 1; Williams, 36.

Read first time January 08, 2021

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Constitution of the United States; to
- 2       adopt the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 11 of this act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act.

3           Sec. 2. For purposes of the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V  
4 Convention Act:

5           (1) Alternate delegate means an individual elected by the  
6 Legislature to represent this state as an alternate delegate at an  
7 Article V convention;

8           (2) Article V convention means a convention called by the United  
9 States Congress under Article V of the Constitution of the United States;

10          (3) Delegate means:

11           (a) An individual elected by the Legislature to represent this state  
12 as a delegate at an Article V convention; and

13           (b) An alternate delegate who fills a vacancy created by the removal  
14 of a delegate or acts in place of the delegate in such delegate's  
15 absence; and

16           (4) Unauthorized vote means a vote by a delegate at an Article V  
17 convention that:

18           (a) Is contrary to the instructions adopted by the Legislature in  
19 effect at the time the vote is taken;

20           (b) Exceeds the scope of the subject matter of the Article V  
21 convention authorized by the Legislature in the application to the United  
22 States Congress to call the convention if the Legislature made an  
23 application to call the convention; or

24           (c) Exceeds the scope or subject matter of the Article V convention  
25 if the Legislature did not make an application to the United States  
26 Congress to call the convention.

27           Sec. 3. The purpose of the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V  
28 Convention Act is to provide the rules and procedures necessary to create  
29 and guide a delegation to an Article V convention and provide legislative  
30 direction relating to the election or recall of a delegate or an  
31 alternate delegate, the filling of a vacancy of a delegate or an

1 alternate delegate, and the determination of an unauthorized vote.

2       Sec. 4. (1) As soon as possible following the calling of an Article  
3 V convention, the Legislature shall create an Article V Convention  
4 Committee. The Legislature shall elect a delegate committee chairperson  
5 and vice-chairperson. The Committee on Committees of the Legislature  
6 shall, by majority vote of all the members, nominate one delegate and one  
7 alternate delegate from each legislative caucus and submit a report of  
8 the nominations to the Legislature for approval. If the Legislature does  
9 not adopt the report by a vote of the majority of the members, the  
10 Committee on Committees shall prepare another report.

11       (2) If the number of delegates allocated to represent this state at  
12 the Article V convention is determined by the United States Congress or  
13 by agreement among the states to be a number other than five, the  
14 Legislature shall elect the appropriate number of delegates and alternate  
15 delegates.

16       (3) Service as a delegate or alternate delegate by a member of the  
17 Legislature is an additional duty of the legislative office.

18       (4) The Legislature shall pair each alternate delegate with a  
19 delegate at the time of the election. The alternate delegate is  
20 designated to automatically fill a vacancy in the position of the paired  
21 delegate. If the positions of both the delegate and alternate delegate  
22 are simultaneously vacated, the Legislature shall elect a new delegate  
23 and paired alternate delegate to succeed the prior delegate and alternate  
24 delegate.

25       Sec. 5. (1) The delegates and alternate delegates shall not be  
26 compensated for their service as delegates and alternate delegates.

27       (2) The delegates and alternate delegates may be reimbursed for  
28 their expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as  
29 provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

30       (3) A delegate or an alternate delegate may not accept a gift as  
31 defined in section 49-1423 from a person who is required to register as a

1 lobbyist under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act.

2       Sec. 6. (1) Each delegate and alternate delegate shall take the  
3 following oath before voting or taking an action as a delegate or  
4 alternate delegate of this state: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that,  
5 to the best of my abilities, I will, as a delegate (or alternate  
6 delegate) to the Article V convention, act according to the limits of the  
7 authority granted to me as a delegate or alternate delegate under the  
8 Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act, will not consider  
9 or vote to approve an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
10 not authorized by the Legislature in its application to the United States  
11 Congress to call this convention or an amendment outside of the scope of  
12 this convention if the Legislature did not make an application to the  
13 United States Congress to call this convention, and will faithfully abide  
14 by and execute the instructions to the delegates and alternate delegates  
15 adopted by the Legislature.

16       (2) Each delegate and alternate delegate shall file the executed  
17 oath with the Secretary of State.

18       Sec. 7. (1) At the time delegates and alternate delegates are  
19 elected under the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act,  
20 the Legislature shall adopt instructions for the delegates and alternate  
21 delegates to govern their actions at the Article V convention.

22       (2) The Legislature shall not adopt instructions for an Article V  
23 convention called following the application by the Legislature to the  
24 United States Congress for the convention that authorize a delegate or  
25 alternate delegate to consider or vote to approve an amendment to the  
26 Constitution of the United States that is not authorized by the  
27 Legislature in its application for the convention.

28       (3) The Legislature may amend the instructions at any time.

29       Sec. 8. An alternate delegate shall act in the place of the  
30 alternate delegate's paired delegate when the delegate is absent from the  
31 convention. An alternate delegate acting under this section shall be

1 deemed the delegate for purposes of such action.

2       Sec. 9. (1) A delegate shall not cast an unauthorized vote. A vote  
3 determined to be an unauthorized vote is invalid.

4       (2) The determination that a vote is an unauthorized vote shall only  
5 be made by the Legislature or by the advisory committee created pursuant  
6 to section 11 of this act when the Legislature is not in session.

7       (3) A delegate who casts a vote determined to be an unauthorized  
8 vote is disqualified to continue to serve as a delegate or alternate  
9 delegate, and the vacancy created by the disqualification shall be filled  
10 as provided in section 4 of this act.

11       Sec. 10. When it is determined by the Legislature or the advisory  
12 committee created pursuant to section 11 of this act that a delegate has  
13 cast an unauthorized vote, the Speaker of the Legislature shall promptly  
14 notify the head of the delegation of this state and the presiding officer  
15 of the Article V convention that the delegate has cast an unauthorized  
16 vote and is disqualified to serve as a delegate.

17       Sec. 11. (1) The Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the  
18 Lieutenant Governor shall serve as the advisory committee for the  
19 delegates and alternate delegates attending the Article V convention. The  
20 chairperson of the executive board shall serve as the chairperson of the  
21 advisory committee. If the chairperson or any other member of the  
22 executive board is serving as a delegate or an alternate delegate, the  
23 chairperson's or other board member's position on the advisory committee  
24 shall be deemed vacant and the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner  
25 as a vacancy on the executive board. The Lieutenant Governor may cast the  
26 deciding vote in the event of a tie vote by the rest of the members of  
27 the advisory committee.

28       (2) If the Legislature is not in session at a regular or special  
29 session while an Article V convention is convened, the members of the  
30 advisory committee shall:

31       (a) Meet at the call of the chairperson at the State Capitol;

1        (b) Upon the request of a delegate or an alternate delegate, advise  
2 the delegate or alternate delegate whether there is reason to believe  
3 that an action or an attempt to take an action by a delegate or alternate  
4 delegate could result in an unauthorized vote; and

5        (c) Determine whether a vote cast by a delegate is an unauthorized  
6 vote as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

7        (3) If a vote cast by a delegate is challenged as an unauthorized  
8 vote under the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act, the  
9 advisory committee shall determine that the vote is an unauthorized vote  
10 only if six or more members of the advisory committee vote that it was an  
11 unauthorized vote.

12        (4) The advisory committee shall not take any action when the  
13 Legislature is convened in regular or special session.