
SEVENTEENTH AMENDMENT

TO THE

CONSTITUTION.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN,

SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to Whom these Presents may come, Greeting:

May 31, 1913.

Know Ye that, the Congress of the United States at the second session, sixty-second Congress, in the year one thousand nine hundred and twelve, passed a Resolution in the words and figures following: to-wit—

“JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution providing that Senators shall be elected by the people of the several States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That in lieu of the first paragraph of section three of Article I of the Constitution of the United States, and in lieu of so much of paragraph two of the same section as relates to the filling of vacancies, the following be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the States:

Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution.
Preamble.
Vol. 37, p. 646.

‘The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

Senators to be elected by the people.

‘When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

Filling of vacancies.

‘This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.’”

Existing terms not affected.

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in this Department that the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed as aforesaid has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Massachusetts, Arizona, Minnesota, New York, Kansas, Oregon, North Carolina, California, Michigan, Idaho, West Virginia, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Texas, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, North Dakota, Nevada, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Dakota, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, New Jersey, Tennessee, Arkansas, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

States ratifying proposed amendment.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Declaration.

And, further, that the States whose Legislatures have so ratified the said proposed amendment, constitute three-fourths of the whole number of states in the United States.

Certificate of adoption as part of Constitution.
R. S., sec. 205, p. 33.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of Section 205 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, do hereby certify that the Amendment aforesaid has become valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and [SEAL.] thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-seventh.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN