

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1617**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

SCR 1617, as amended, if adopted by two-thirds majority of each chamber of the Kansas Legislature and approved by voters, would amend the *Kansas Constitution* to remove language requiring a two-thirds majority of each chamber to ratify an amendment of the *U.S. Constitution* or to make application for Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the *U.S. Constitution*.

The resolution would require the following proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection:

§ 13. Majority for passage of bills. A majority of the members then elected (or appointed) and qualified of each house, voting in the affirmative, shall be necessary to pass any bill.

The resolution would require the following explanatory statement be printed on the ballot with the text of the amendment if it is to be submitted to voters for their approval:

Explanatory statement. This amendment would provide that only a simple majority vote of each house of the state legislature would be necessary to pass a resolution to ratify any amendment to the Constitution of the United States or to make any application for congress

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

A vote for this proposition would provide that only a simple majority of each house of the state legislature would be necessary to pass a resolution to ratify any amendment to the Constitution of the United States or to make any application for congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

A vote against this proposition would make no change to the current requirement of a 2/3 majority vote of each house of the state legislature to pass a resolution to ratify an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or to make application to Congress to call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

If approved by two-thirds of the Legislature, the text of the resolution and the yea and nay votes of both the Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate would be published in the journals of both chambers.

The resolution would require the proposed constitutional amendment be submitted to voters at the general election on November 3, 2026.

Background

The concurrent resolution was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Murphy.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs held a hearing on SCR 1617 on January 29, 2026. In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Murphy and a private citizen. The proponents discussed a court decision holding that the two-thirds majority requirement for ratifying amendments to the *U.S. Constitution* or calling a convention of the states violates Article 5 of the *U.S. Constitution* and stated the concurrent resolution would align the *Kansas Constitution* with the *U.S. Constitution*.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the concurrent resolution to:

- Remove all language about ratifying amendments to the *U.S. Constitution* or making application to Congress to call a convention of states;
- Clarify the explanatory statement that would be printed on the ballot with the text of the amendment if it is to be submitted to voters for their approval; and
- Remove language that would allow the amendment to be submitted to voters at a special election called before the election on November 3, 2026.

Fiscal Information

No fiscal note was available at the time the Senate Committee took action on the concurrent resolution.

Legislature; *Kansas Constitution*; *U.S. Constitution*; ratification; simple majority