



Bill Analysis

Summary: HJR 48 -- 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services
Introduced in House (02/22/2019)

Constitutional Amendment

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing that:

- the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of
- natural persons only;
- artificial entities, such as corporations..., established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People through federal, state, or local law; and
- the privileges of such artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

The amendment requires federal, state, and local government to:

- regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including those of a candidate, to ensure:
 - » that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and
 - » that no person gains, as a result of that person's money, ... [a lot] more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure
- require that any ... *[allowed]* contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to abridge freedom of the press.

www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/48

What does this bill do?

1. Circle any weasel words in bill summary.

2. Circle your answer.

- Yes No Establishes that only natural persons have inalienable rights and protected constitutional rights.
- Yes No Establishes that artificial persons have no rights under Constitution and that privileges are not inalienable.
- Yes No Establishes that artificial persons are regulated by government and the People.
- Yes No Establishes that money is not speech.
- Yes No Requires government to regulate, limit, or prohibit campaign contributions and expenditures.
- Yes No Requires government to require public disclosure of ... contributions and expenditures.

3. What's does it do? (summarize)

4. What's missing?



Bill Analysis

Summary: SJR 20 -- 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services
Introduced in Senate (02/03/2017)

Constitutional Amendment

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment declaring that:

- the rights... [listed] in the Constitution and other rights... [held] by the people are the rights of natural persons;
- the terms "people," "person," and "citizen" as used in the Constitution do not include corporate entities established by the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state; and
- corporate entities are subject to such regulation as the people, through representatives in Congress and state representatives, may determine reasonable, consistent with the powers of Congress and the states.

It prohibits the Constitution from being construed to limit such rights... [listed] in the Constitution and other rights... [held] by the people, which are unalienable.

www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/20?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22tester%22%5D%7D

What does this bill do?

1. Circle any weasel words in bill summary.

2. Circle your answer.

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Yes | No | Establishes that only natural persons have inalienable rights and protected constitutional rights. |
| Yes | No | Establishes that artificial persons have no rights under Constitution and that privileges are not inalienable. |
| Yes | No | Establishes that artificial persons are regulated by government and the People. |
| Yes | No | Establishes that money is not speech. |
| Yes | No | Requires government to regulate, limit, or prohibit campaign contributions and expenditures. |
| Yes | No | Requires government to require public disclosure of ... contributions and expenditures. |

3. What does it do?

4. What's missing?



Bill Analysis

Summary: HJR 2 -- 116th Congress (2019-2020)

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services
Introduced in House (01/03/2019)

Constitutional Amendment

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections.

The amendment grants Congress and the states the power to implement and enforce this amendment by legislation. They are allowed to distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/2

What does this bill do?

1. Circle any weasel words in bill summary.

2. Circle your answer.

- Yes No Establishes that only natural persons have inalienable rights and protected constitutional rights.
- Yes No Establishes that artificial persons have no rights under Constitution and that privileges are not inalienable.
- Yes No Establishes that artificial persons are regulated by government and the People.
- Yes No Establishes that money is not speech.
- Yes No Requires government to regulate, limit, or prohibit campaign contributions and expenditures.
- Yes No Requires government to require public disclosure of ... contributions and expenditures.

3. What does it do?

4. What's missing?