

AMENDMENT NO. 5

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 5: REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
PROPOSED BY THE

AMENDED CONSTITUTION AS PROPOSED
BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

ARTICLE V: REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Section 1: State the priority of obtaining member or delegate status for the Commonwealth in the U.S. Congress, and provide for automatic transition to that status if Congress acts.

Section 2: Restate the current provisions with respect to the Resident Representative with no substantive change.

Delete requirement as to when the annual report is delivered and leave that to the discretion of the Representative. Delete the provision with respect to felony convictions; that is covered uniformly in Article 7. Delete the provision with respect to impeachment; that is covered in Article 2. Delete the exemption with respect to civil service status of employees of the Resident Representative; that is covered in Article 3.

Section 1: Permanent Representation in the United States Congress.

Representation of the Commonwealth in the United States Congress is of fundamental importance to the people of the Commonwealth. When the Congress provides that the Commonwealth shall have a member or delegate, that office shall be established with the term of office and other conditions provided by Congress, and an election shall be held promptly to fill that office. The member or delegate shall be a citizen of the United States qualified to vote in the Commonwealth who is at least twenty-five years of age, and shall meet any other qualifications required by Congress. The member or delegate shall make an annual report to the people in person through a joint session of the legislature. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner required by Congress, or by appointment by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The member or delegate shall receive an annual salary and allowance for expenses as provided by Congress or by law.

Section 2: Resident Representative to the United States.

Prior to the time Congress provides that the Commonwealth shall have a member or delegate, a resident representative to the United States shall be elected to represent the people of the Commonwealth in the United States. The resident representative shall be a citizen of the United States qualified to vote in the Commonwealth who is at least twenty-five years of age. The resident representative shall serve a term of four years. The governor shall provide a certificate of selection to the United States Department of State. The resident representative shall make an annual report to the people in person through a joint session of the legislature. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The resident representative shall receive an annual salary and allowance for expenses as provided by law.