

Subject Federal Equal Rights Amendment

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Summary

This bill contains a resolution to Congress, requesting that Congress remove the deadline for state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, a U.S. Constitutional amendment proposal that was first submitted to the states for ratification in 1972. A number of arguments in support of the resolution are contained in the bill.

When it was originally submitted to the states, Congress included a seven-year deadline for ratification in the proposal. That deadline was later extended an additional three years, to June 30, 1982. The 1982 deadline was reached without a sufficient number of ratifications to complete the amendment process (only 35 of the required 38 states took action to ratify the amendment during that time).

Three additional states have taken action to ratify the amendment in recent years (Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018, and Virginia in 2020), while at least five states have taken action in an effort to rescind their ratifications (Nebraska, Tennessee, Idaho, Kentucky, and South Dakota).

Minnesota ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1973, and this resolution does not change the state's ratification status. Instead, it requests that Congress remove the deadline to allow for a sufficient number of other states to take action so that the amendment can be fully ratified and incorporated into the Constitution.

More information on Minnesota's ratification history related to the Equal Rights Amendment, including a request to Congress made by the Minnesota Legislature in 1949 encouraging Congress to submit an amendment to the states on this topic, is included in the House Research Department publication *"United States Constitutional Amendments: Minnesota's Legislative History,"* available online: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/usconamdMN.pdf>.