

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER ARTICLE 5 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO CALL A CONVENTION, UPON THE APPLICATION OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE STATES, FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO IMPOSE FISCAL RESTRAINTS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, LIMIT THE POWER AND JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS AND LIMIT THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

WHEREAS, the governor of New Mexico is constitutionally required to submit a balanced budget, and the New Mexico legislature is constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget, thereby preserving the state's financial solvency and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the federal government continues to accrue

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1 unsustainable increases in the national debt, obligating New
2 Mexico's citizens and future generations to insurmountable
3 financial burdens; and

4 WHEREAS, otherwise necessary federal regulatory
5 protections become costly, unworkable and oppressive when
6 congested by an excess of unnecessary and obsolete rules and
7 mandates, causing hardships to local governments, small
8 businesses and working families; and

9 WHEREAS, a professionalized congress, whose members may be
10 more influenced by the power of organized pressure groups than
11 the interests of the majority of the citizens, fails in its
12 service to those citizens and proves unresponsive to fiscal
13 excess and government overreach; and

14 WHEREAS, constitutionally applied mechanisms for
15 establishing sound requirements for accountability of federal
16 spending, regulation and public service are necessary to the
17 well-being of the people; and

18 WHEREAS, twenty-two million seven hundred forty-seven
19 thousand acres in New Mexico, comprising twenty-nine and
20 twenty-four hundredths percent of the state's land mass, are
21 managed by the United States forest service and the United
22 States bureau of land management, while an additional two
23 million seven hundred twelve thousand six hundred acres, or
24 five and forty-eight hundredths percent of the state's land
25 mass, are under national park service and United States

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1 department of defense control; and

2 WHEREAS, overreaching federal agency policies and
3 decisions can have significant, unreasonable and costly impacts
4 on users of public lands, as well as on private landowners,
5 local citizens, local governments and local economies; and

6 WHEREAS, the burdens of federal government overreach on
7 New Mexico's small businesses and families, regardless of the
8 extent of their reliance on public lands, are made worse by
9 unrestrained federal spending and an unwillingness by a
10 professionalized congress to confront these issues; and

11 WHEREAS, a constitutional amendment defining the limits of
12 federal agency power over public and private lands and
13 respecting the jurisdictional powers and responsibilities of
14 the states and local governments is necessary; and

15 WHEREAS, Article 5 of the United States constitution
16 recognizes the authority of the legislatures of the states to
17 propose amendments at a convention, which would become
18 effective upon ratification by at least three-fourths of the
19 states; and

20 WHEREAS, Article 5 of the United States constitution
21 provides authority for a convention to be called by the
22 congress of the United States for the purpose of proposing
23 amendments to the constitution upon application of two-thirds
24 of the legislatures of the several states;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislature hereby
2 apply to congress, under the provisions of Article 5 of the
3 United States constitution, for the calling of a convention of
4 the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States
5 constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal
6 government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal
7 government and limit the terms of office for federal officials
8 and members of congress; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
10 appoint commissioners to the convention and instruct those
11 commissioners as necessary; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
13 include representatives of users of federal lands and their
14 resources among its appointments of commissioners; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature
16 instruct its commissioners to pursue an amendment proposal
17 which, if ratified by three-fourths of the states, would
18 appropriately limit the parameters of federal power over public
19 and private lands with respect to local jurisdictions and
20 attest the responsibilities and powers of the states and local
21 governments; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state is
23 hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the
24 president of the United States, the president and secretary of
25 the United States senate and the speaker and clerk of the

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1 United States house of representatives; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application constitutes a
3 continuing application in accordance with Article 5 of the
4 United States constitution until the legislatures of at least
5 two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the
6 same subject.

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