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the Articles of Confederation by the States In Congress

## Georgia Signs, 24 July 1778

*House of Assembly, 26 February 1778*<sup>1</sup>

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole house to take into consideration the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, and after sometime spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Whitefield from the committee of the whole reported they had taken the said Articles into consideration and gone through the same and made several amendments thereto which were read and agreed to.

Extract from the Minutes, George Cuthbert, Clerk.

Report of the Amendments to the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union.

4th. Article, 4 page 4th line, add the words “white inhabitants.” 6th line, between the words “vagabonds and,” add “all persons who refuse to bear arms in defense of the state to which they belong and all persons who have been or shall be attainted and adjudged guilty of high treason in any of the United States.” 9 Article, 20th page 20 line, between the words “emitted to,” add “and the expenditure of the same.” 11 Article, page 25, between the words “Canada acceding,” add “and the colonies of East and West Florida.”

A true copy from the original taken the 24 May and examined by George Cuthbert, C.H.A.

Resolved, That the delegates for this state be authorized and required to lay before the general Congress of the United States the several alterations proposed and agreed upon by this House this day in the Articles of Confederation and that they do use their exertions to have such alterations agreed to and confirmed in Congress.

Resolved, That in case all or none of such alterations shall be agreed to and confirmed in Congress, that then and notwithstanding, they be empowered and required in behalf of this state to sign, ratify, and confirm the several Articles of the Confederation recommended to the respective legislatures of the United States by Congress or any other plan of a general confederation which shall be agreed upon by nine of the United States.

Extract from the Minutes, George Cuthbert, Clerk.

*Journals of Congress, 25 June 1778*

The delegate from Georgia being called upon for the report of his constituents on the Confederation, informed Congress that he has not yet received any instructions or orders respecting the same; but that, his state having shown so much readiness to ratify the Articles of Confederation even in an imperfect state, and it being so much for their interest that the Confederation should be ratified, he had no doubt of their agreeing to it as it now stands.

*Journals of Congress, 23 July 1778*

The delegates from Georgia laid before Congress the proceedings of the House of Assembly of that state respecting the Articles of Confederation, which were read.

*Journals of Congress, 24 July 1778*

Pursuant to the powers in them vested, the delegates of Georgia signed the ratification of the Articles of Confederation.

1. The journals of the Georgia House of Assembly for 1778 do not exist. This item was transcribed from a section of the Transcript Journals of Congress for 27 June 1778 entitled: "Powers of the states to their delegates to ratify the articles of Confederation." There is no evidence that the Georgia amendments were submitted to Congress for consideration.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. I: Constitutional Documents and Records, 1776–1787 (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 126–27.