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Instructions to the Convention Delegates

Delaware, 3 February 1787

Act Electing and Empowering Delegates, 3 February 1787

An ACT appointing Deputies from this State to the Convention, proposed to be held in the City of Philadelphia, for the Purpose of revising the Foederal Constitution.

Whereas the General Assembly of this State are fully convinced of the Necessity of revising the Foederal Constitution, and adding thereto such further Provisions as may render the same more adequate to the Exigencies of the Union; and whereas the Legislature of *Virginia* have already passed an Act of that Commonwealth, appointing and authorizing certain Commissioners to meet, at the City of Philadelphia, in *May* next, a Convention of Commissioners or Deputies from the different States: And this State being willing and desirous of co-operating with the Commonwealth of *Virginia*, and the other States in the Confederation, in so useful a Design;

Sect. 1. BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of *Delaware*, That *George Read, Gunning Bedford, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, and Jacob Broom*, Esquires, are hereby appointed Deputies from this State to meet in the Convention of the Deputies of other States, to be held at the City of *Philadelphia* on the Second Day of *May* next. And the said *George Read, Gunning Bedford, John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, and Jacob Broom*, Esquires, or any Three of them, are hereby constituted and appointed Deputies from this State, with Powers to meet such Deputies as may be appointed and authorized by the other States to assemble in the said Convention at the City aforesaid, and to join with them in devising, deliberating on, and discussing, such Alterations and further Provisions, as may be necessary to render the Foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of the Union; and in reporting such Act or Acts for that Purpose to the United States in Congress assembled, as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States, may effectually provide for the same: So always and provided, that such Alterations, or further Provisions, or any of them, do not extend to that Part of the Fifth Article of the Confederation of the said States, finally ratified on the first Day of *March*, in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one, which declares, that “in determining Questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one Vote.”

Sect. 2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in case any of the said Deputies, hereby nominated, shall happen to die, or to resign his or their Appointment, the President or Commander in Chief, with the Advice of the Privy-Council, in the Recess of the General Assembly, is hereby authorized to supply such Vacancies.

Signed, by Order of the House of Assembly,
JOHN COOK, Speaker.
Signed, by Order of the Council,
GEORGE CRAGHEAD, Speaker.

Passed, at *Dover, February 3, 1787.*

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), 203–4.