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Instructions to the Convention Delegates

## Connecticut, 17 May 1787

### *Act Electing and Empowering Delegates, 17 May 1787*<sup>1</sup>

An Act for appointing Delegates to meet in a Convention of the States, to be held at the City of Philadelphia, on the 2d. Monday of May instant.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by their Act of the 21st of February 1787, have recommended that on the 2d Monday of May instant, a Convention of Delegates, who shall have been appointed by the several States, be held at Philadelphia, for the sole & express Purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation.

Be it enacted by the Governor Council & Representatives in General Court assembled, and by Authority of the same—

That the Honble William S. Johnson, Roger Sherman & Oliver Ellsworth Esqrs be, and they hereby are, appointed Delegates to attend the sd Convention, and are requested to proceed to the City of Philadelphia for that Purpose, without Delay, and the said Delegates, and in Case of Sickness or Accident, such one or more of them, as shall actually attend the said Convention, is and are hereby authorized and impowered to represent this State therein, & to confer with such Delegates appointed by the several States, for the Purposes mentioned in the sd Act of Congress, that may be present and duly empowered to act in said Convention, and to discuss upon such Alterations and Provisions, agreeable to the general Principles of Republican Government, as they shall think proper, to render the foederal Constitution adequate to the Exigencies of Government, and the Preservation of the Union; and they are further directed, pursuant to the said Act of Congress, to report such Alterations and Provisions, as may be agreed to, by a Majority of the united States represented in Convention, to the Congress of the United States, and to the General Assembly of this State.

passd. in the upper House  
Test. George Wyllys Secy  
Concurred, in the lower House  
Test. Jed Huntington Clerk

1. On Saturday, 12 May, after a lengthy debate, the Assembly passed a bill appointing William Samuel Johnson, Erastus Wolcott, and Oliver Ellsworth deputies to the proposed convention. The Council concurred but proposed an amendment striking out the clause “‘or any two of them’ in the 2d and 3d line of the bill.” The Assembly accepted the amendment on 14 May. The next day Wolcott resigned, and Roger Sherman was appointed to fill the vacancy. The act printed here was passed on 17 May.

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), 215–16.