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## North Carolina, 22 December 1789

### *Introduction*

On 18 November 1789, the delegates to the second North Carolina ratifying Convention began debating the Constitution while sitting as a committee of the whole. Among the committee's papers was a copy of Congress' twelve proposed amendments to the Constitution. On 20 November, Antifederalist James Gallaway of Rockingham County referenced Congress' proposed amendments saying that they only partially satisfied the first North Carolina Convention's proposal for a bill of rights and structural alterations to the Constitution, but that further amendments were needed before North Carolina should ratify. Gallaway proposed five additional amendments that needed to be considered in a second constitutional convention before North Carolina should ratify the Constitution. The delegates overwhelmingly rejected this latest call for previous amendments to the Constitution.

On 23 November, the last day of the state Convention, the House of Commons (also sitting in Fayetteville) read and approved a bill for the ratification of Congress' proposed twelve amendments to the Constitution. Over the next month the NC bicameral legislature considered various changes to the proposed amendments and a final version of the bill was signed on 22 December 1789. On 10 February 1790, North Carolina Secretary of State James Glasgow certified the authenticity of a copy of the act, which Governor Alexander Martin sent to President George Washington on 14 February 1790.

### *House of Commons Proceedings, Monday, 23 November 1789*

Mr. Hamilton of Edenton, moved for leave & presented a Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was read for the first time, passed and sent to the House [i.e., Senate].

### *Senate Proceedings, Tuesday, 24 November 1789 (excerpts)*

Received also [from the House of Commons] a bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States . . .

Ordered, that these Bills be read, which being read, were passed the first time in this House and returned.

### *House of Commons Proceedings, Tuesday, 24 November 1789 (excerpts)*

Received from the Senate the following Bill. Endorsed read the first time and passed, to wit: . . . A Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

*House of Commons Proceedings, Wednesday, 25 November 1789 (excerpts)*

Ordered that the following Bills be read for the second time to-morrow, to-wit: . . . A Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

*House of Commons Proceedings, Thursday, 26 November 1789*

Mr. Hamilton moved for leave to withdraw for amendment “the Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States.” Ordered that he have leave accordingly.

*House of Commons Proceedings, Monday, 30 November 1789*

Ordered that the following Message be sent to the Senate:

Mr. Speaker & Gentlemen:

We have appointed Mr. Jones and Mr. Hamilton of Edenton, to assist in examining the Engrossed Bills.

The Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, was read the second time, amended, passed and sent to the Senate.

*House of Commons Proceedings, Tuesday, 1 December 1789 (excerpts)*

Received also, a Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States . . .  
Endorsed: read the second time and passed

*House of Commons Proceedings, Saturday, 5 December 1789*

The Bill to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States, was read the third time, amended, passed and sent to the Senate.

*Senate Proceedings, Tuesday, 8 December 1789*

Received also the bill to ratify the amendments to the constitution of the United States, endorsed “Read the third time, amended and passed.”

Ordered, That this bill be read; which being read, was passed the third time and ordered to be engrossed.

*Act to Ratify the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, 22 December 1789*

[The act begins with Congress’ twelve proposed amendments and its resolution that prefaced them.]

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North Carolina and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the said amendments agreeable to the fifth article of the original Constitution be held and ratified on the part of this State as articles in addition to and amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Chas Johnson S.S.

S. Cabarrus S.H.C.

Read three times and ratified In General Assembly this 22nd day of December AD. 1789.  
State of North Carolina

I James Glasgow Secretary of the said State do hereby Certify the foregoing to be a true Copy of the Original Act of the Assembly filed in the Secretary's office

In Testimony whereof I have hereto set my Hand—this tenth day of February 1790

***Governor Alexander Martin to President George Washington, Danbury, N.C.***

***14 February 1790***

His Excellency Alexander Martin Esquire Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the said State

To all to whom these presents shall come

It is certified That the honorable James Glasgow Esquire who hath attested the annexed Copy of an Act of the General Assembly of this State was at the time thereof and now is Secretary of the said State and that full faith and Credit are due to his Official Acts

Given under my Hand and the great Seal of the State at Danbury the fourteenth day of Feb. Anno Dom. 1790 and in the XIV Year of our Independance

***New York Gazette of the United States, 12 May 1790***

A message was received from the President of the United States [dated 11 June] with a copy of the ratification of the amendments to the constitution by the State of North-Carolina.

***Governor Alexander Martin to President George Washington, Rockingham, N.C.***

***25 May 1790***

I do myself the honour to transmit you herewith inclosed an Act of the General Assembly of this State passed at their last Session entituled “An Act to ratify the amendments to the Constitution of the United States.”

Your Communication of the 20th of February last of the Act of Congress entituled “An Act for giving effect to the Acts therein mentioned in respect to the State of North Carolina and other purposes.” I have been duely honoured with, and have announced the same to the Citizens of this State—

I have the honour to be with very great respect

***Governor Alexander Martin to North Carolina's U.S. Representatives***

***Rockingham, N.C., 25 May 1790 (excerpt)***

I was favoured with your Letter of the 11th Ulto. a few days ago with sundry Inclosures particularly an Act of Congress for accepting the “Act of Cession of the Western Lands” by you made to the United States—which I shall do myself the Honour to lay before the legislature at their next meeting.

I was informed by some of the Clerks at the adjournment of the Assembly, that the ratification of the Articles proposed by Congress as amendments to the Constitution of the United States by the Legislature of this State had early in the Session been sent forward to Congress before my coming into the administration, and gave myself no further trouble about it—but thinking that a duplicate of the Cession Act should go forward lest the original might miscarry I sent to Colo. Glasgow for the Exemplification, and he Accordingly transmitted me the same with an authen-

ticated Copy of the ratification act you mentioned which I have done myself the honour to inclose to the President of the United States. . . .

I have the honour to be Gentlemen with very great respect

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