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Pennsylvania, 10 March 1790

Introduction

On 12 October 1789, the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council received President George Washington's letter of 2 October transmitting Congress' proposed amendments to the Constitution. After considering the amendments in a committee of the whole on 27 and 30 November, the Assembly agreed to delay its further consideration of the amendments until its next session.

On 24 February 1790, the Assembly reconsidered the amendments and agreed that a bill should be brought in approving all but the first two of Congress' amendments. On 26 February the Assembly rejected a consideration of the first amendment and resolved to appoint a committee to bring in a bill approving the last ten amendments (Nos. 3–12). On 10 March the engrossed act was brought in, compared, and signed by Richard Peters, the Assembly Speaker. The next day Speaker Peters sent a copy of the act to President George Washington. On 16 March Washington's secretary (Tobias Lear) sent the exemplification to the office of the Secretary of State.

On 24 August 1791 a motion was made in Pennsylvania's new House of Representatives to consider Congress' first amendment. One month later, on 21 September, a joint legislative committee sent a final engrossed act to Governor Thomas Mifflin, who signed the act and sent a copy to President Washington.

Supreme Executive Council Proceedings, Monday, 12 October 1789 (excerpts)

Letters from His Excellency the President of the second and third instant inclosing the following Acts of Congress Vizt. . . .

A Copy of the Amendments proposed to be added to the Constitution of the United States.

Supreme Executive Council Proceedings, Tuesday, 3 November 1789

Mr. Lutz, Mr. Neville and Mr. Lilly a Committee from the General Assembly attending were introduced and informed Council that the House was now met and ready to receive any business which Council might have to lay before them—

The Committee were informed that a Message was preparing and would be laid before the House this day together with several public papers which have been received since the last adjournment of the Assembly.

A draft of a Message from Council to the General Assembly was laid before Council—read and approved as follow—Vizt.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 3 November 1789 (excerpts)

A message from his Excellency the President and Supreme Executive Council was presented to the chair, and read, as follows, *viz.* . . .

Gentlemen,

We herewith transmit . . .

A copy of the amendments proposed to be added to the constitution of the United States. . . .

And the several papers accompanying the same were also read; and,

On motion of Mr. *Kennedy*, seconded by Mr. *Carson*,

The said message and papers therewith transmitted were, by special order, read the second time: Whereupon

Ordered, That the same be referred to Mr. *Wynkoop*, Mr. *Lilley* and Mr. *Kennedy*, to arrange the subject matters, and report thereon.

Adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

Assembly Proceedings, Thursday, 5 November 1789

The committee appointed *November 3d*, to arrange the subject matters of the message of Council, made report, which was read; and on motion, and by special order, the same was read the second time, as follows, *viz.*

Your committee, appointed to arrange the matters contained in the message of the Supreme Executive Council beg leave to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the amendments proposed to be added to the constitution of the United States be referred to a committee of the whole.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 10 November 1789

On motion of Mr. *Carson*, seconded by Mr. *Kennedy*,

Resolved, That one hundred copies of the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States be printed, for the use of the members of this House.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 24 November 1789

The House resumed the consideration of the report of the committee appointed on the message of the President and Supreme Executive Council, to arrange the subject matters contained in the said message, postponed *November 5th*: Whereupon

On motion of Mr. *Boys*, seconded by Mr. *Ashmead*,

Resolved, That the amendments proposed to be added to the constitution of the United States be referred to a committee of the whole.

Which was carried in the affirmative.

It was then, on motion of Mr. *Rawle*, seconded by Mr. *Gurney*,

Resolved, That this House will on *Friday* next resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purposes contained in the foregoing resolution, and that it be the order for the day.

Assembly Proceedings, Friday, 27 November 1789

Agreeably to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, in order to take into consideration the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

Mr. Speaker quitted the chair, and Mr. *Wynkoop* was placed therein.

After some time spent in discussing the subject.

The Chairman quitted the chair, and Mr. Speaker resumed it.

The Chairman then reported that they had made some progress in the business, but not having compleated the same, requested leave to sit again on *Monday* next, in the afternoon.

Leave was accordingly granted.

Adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

Assembly Proceedings, Monday, 30 November 1789

Agreeably to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

Mr. Speaker quitted the chair, and the Chairman was placed therein.

After some time spent in discussing the subject, the Chairman quitted the chair, and Mr. Speaker resumed it.

The Chairman then reported, that the committee had made further progress in the business, but not having compleated the same, requested leave to sit again.

Leave was accordingly granted.

Adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

Newspaper Account of Assembly Proceedings, 30 November 1789

The Committee of the whole went into the further consideration of the first and second amendment proposed to be added to the Constitution of the United States—A variety of opinions prevailing as to both these articles; it was deemed most proper, that the consideration of them should be postponed, that the members might have further time to reflect on them. The Committee therefore rose, reported progress, asked, and obtained leave to sit again. As the session is nearly drawing to a close it is conjectured, that nothing will finally be determined in this business, until the House meet again which will probably be sometime in February.

Assembly Proceedings, Wednesday, 24 February 1790

Agreeably to leave given, *November* 30th last, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, in order to take into consideration the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

Mr. Speaker quitted the chair, and the Chairman was placed therein.

After some time spent in discussing the subject,

The Chairman quitted the chair, and Mr. Speaker resumed it.

The Chairman then made report, which was read, as follows, *viz.*

The committee of the whole House beg leave to report—

That they have deliberately considered the several articles of amendment proposed by the Congress of the United States, and submit the following resolutions, *viz.*

Resolved, That this House do ratify the following articles, proposed by the Congress of the United States as amendments to the constitution of the United States, *viz.*

[Here follows the text of Congress' proposed amendments Nos. 3–12.]

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, for the purposes contained in the above resolution.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

Assembly Proceedings, Friday, 26 February 1790

On motion of Mr. *Rawle*, seconded by Mr. *Kennedy*,

Ordered, That *Monday* next be assigned for the second reading of the report of the committee of the whole on the subject of the amendments proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States, and that it be the order for that day.

Assembly Proceedings, Monday, 1 March 1790

Agreeably to the order of the day, the report of the committee of the whole on the several articles proposed by Congress as amendments to the constitution of the United States, read *February 24th*, was read the second time: Whereupon

A motion was made by Mr. *Maclay*, seconded by Mr. *Harris*,

To postpone the said report, in order to take into consideration the first Article of the said proposed amendments, *viz.*

[Here follows the text of Congress' first proposed amendment on the apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives.]

On the question, — "*Will the House agree to the postponement, for the aforesaid purpose?*" — the Yeas and Nays being called by Mr. *Kennedy* and Mr. *Johnston*, were as follow, *viz.*

YEAS.

1 Francis Gurney,	10 Anthony Lerch,	19 John Gilchreest,
2 Thomas Clingan,	11 John Moore,	20 James Finley,
3 Joseph Reed,	12 Samuel Maclay,	21 James Johnston,
4 John Stewart,	13 John White,	22 John Rhea,
5 Thomas Kennedy,	14 John Baird,	23 Benjamin Markley,
6 David Mitchell,	15 James Barr,	24 Jacob Miley,
7 Jonathan Hoge,	16 James Allison,	25 John Carson,
8 John Ludwig,	17 Alexander Wright,	26 James M'Creight,
9 Nicholas Lutz,	18 James Marshall,	27 John Harris.

NAYS.

1 Lawrence Sickle,	9 Valentine Upp,	17 James Cunningham,
2 Jacob Hiltzheimer,	10 John Chapman,	18 Jacob Erb,
3 William Rawle,	11 James Bryan,	19 John Miller,
4 Samuel Ashmead,	12 Richard Thomas,	20 Jacob Schmyser,
5 Thomas Paul,	13 Richard Downing, jun.	21 Thomas Lilley,
6 Thomas Britton,	14 James Clemson,	22 William Godfrey,
7 Elias Boys,	15 John Hopkins,	23 Stephen Balliot,
8 Gerardus Wynkoop,	16 Henry Dering,	24 Conrad Ibrie, jun.

25 Herman Husband,	28 Jonathan Roberts,	31 John Nevil,
26 Thomas Ryerson,	29 James Vaux,	32 Richard Riley.
27 Jacob Reiff,	30 Obadiah Gore,	

So it was carried in the negative.

And the said report recurring, the House adopted the following resolution, contained in the same, *viz.*

Resolved, That this House do ratify the following articles, proposed by the Congress of the United States as amendments to the constitution of the United States, *viz.*

[Here follows the text of Congress' proposed amendments Nos. 3–12.]

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, for the purposes contained in the above resolution.

Ordered, That Mr. *Rawle*, Mr. *Wynkoop* and Mr. *Kennedy* be a committee, to bring in a bill conformably to said resolutions.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 2 March 1790

The committee appointed for the purpose reported a bill, entitled “*An Act declaring the assent of this State to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States,*” which was read the first time, and

Ordered to lie on the table.

Assembly Proceedings, Friday, 5 March 1790

The bill, entitled “*An Act declaring the assent of this State to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States,*” was read the second time, and considered by paragraphs.

Ordered, That it be transcribed for a third reading, and forthwith published for consideration.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 9 March 1789

The bill, entitled “*An Act declaring the assent of this State to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States,*” was read the third time, and considered by paragraphs.

Ordered, That it be engrossed, for the purpose of being enacted into a law.

Assembly Proceedings, Wednesday, 10 March 1790

The bill, entitled “*An Act declaring the assent of this State to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States,*” having been brought in engrossed, was compared at the table, enacted into a law, and the Speaker directed to sign the same: Whereupon,

On motion of Mr. *Rawle*, seconded by Mr. *Boys*,

Resolved, That an exemplification of the act, entitled “*An Act declaring the assent of this state to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States,*” under the seal of this state, and signed by the Speaker of this House, be transmitted to the Congress of the United States.

Adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

Act Ratifying Amendments to the Constitution, 10 March 1790

Sect. I. Whereas in pursuance of the fifth article of the constitution of the United States, certain articles of amendment to the said constitution have been proposed by the Congress of the United

States, for the consideration of the Legislatures of the several States: *And whereas* this House, being the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, having maturely deliberated thereupon, have resolved to adopt and ratify the articles hereafter enumerated, as part of the Constitution of the United States.

Sect. II. Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That the following amendments to the constitution of the United States proposed by the Congress thereof, viz.

[Here follows the text of Congress' proposed amendments Nos. 3–12.]

Be, and they are hereby ratified on behalf of this State, to become, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, part of the constitution of the United States.

Signed by Order of the House,

RICHARD PETERS, SPEAKER.

Enacted into a law at Philadelphia, on Wednesday the tenth day of March, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

PETER ZACHARY LLOYD, Clerk of the General Assembly.

Speaker Richard Peters: Certification of Act Ratifying Amendments, 11 March 1790

In General Assembly

State of Pennsylvania, to wit.

In pursuance of a Resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania being the Legislature thereof, I do hereby Certify that the paper hereunto annexed contains an exact and true Exemplification of the Act whereof it purports to be a Copy, by virtue whereof the several Amendments therein mentioned, proposed to the Constitution of the United States were on the part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agreed to, ratified and confirmed.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State this eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

Speaker Richard Peters to President George Washington, Philadelphia, 11 March 1790

I have the Honour to transmit an exemplified Copy of the Act declaring the Assent of this State to certain Amendments to the Constitution of the United States that you may be pleased to lay it before Congress—

With the greatest Respect

Tobias Lear to Roger Alden, New York, 16 March 1790

I am directed by the President of the United States to transmit to you, to be lodged in the Office of the Secy of State, An Act & the form of Ratification, of certain Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania— together with a letter from the Honble Richard Peters Esquire Speaker of the House of Assembly of Pennsylvania to the President of the United States.—

I am Sir, with very great esteem

*Newspaper Reports of Pennsylvania's Ratification of Congress' Amendments
17–25 March 1790*

New York Gazette of the United States, 17 March 1790

A message was received [by the U.S. House of Representatives] from the President of the United States, with the ratification of the amendments to the constitution by the State of Pennsylvania.

New York Gazette of the United States, 20 March 1790

The ratification of the State of Pennsylvania of the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 articles of amendments proposed by Congress to the Constitution was read [in the U.S. House of Representatives].

New York Journal, 25 March 1790

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania have ratified all the amendments proposed by Congress to the New Constitution, except the 1st and 2d.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 6 April 1790 (excerpts)

The committee appointed to affix the seal to the laws reported, that they had affixed the seal to the following laws, viz. . . .

XIII. *An ACT declaring the assent of this State to certain amendments to the constitution of the United States.*

House of Representatives Proceedings, Wednesday, 24 August 1791

A motion was made by Mr. *Gallatin*, seconded by Mr. *M'Lene*, in the following words, viz.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, ratifying, on behalf of the commonwealth, the first amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the Congress of the United States during their first session.

Ordered to lie on the table.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Monday, 29 August 1791

The motion made by Mr. *Gallatin*, seconded by Mr. *M'Lene*, August 24th instant, respecting the first amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the Congress of the United States, was read the second time: Whereupon,

On motion of Mr. *Wells*, seconded by Mr. *Wynkoop*,

Ordered, That the further consideration thereof be postponed until to-morrow, and that this House will then resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of taking the same into consideration.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Tuesday, 30 August 1791

On motion of Mr. *Evans*, seconded by Mr. *Vaux*,

Ordered, That the order of the day, for taking into consideration, in a committee of the whole House, the first amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the Congress of the United States, be postponed until *Thursday* next.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Thursday, 1 September 1791

Agreeably to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, in order to take into consideration the motion of Mr. *Gallatin*, seconded by Mr. *M'Lene*, postponed *August* 30th last.

Mr. Speaker quitted the chair, and Mr. *M'Clenachan* was placed therein.

After some time spent in the business,

The Chairman left the chair, and the Speaker resumed it.

The Chairman then reported, that the committee of the whole had agreed to the original resolution, without any amendments.

And having presented the same to the chair, it was read; and on motion, and by special order, the same was read the second time, and adopted, as follows, *viz.*

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, ratifying, on the behalf of the commonwealth, the first amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the Congress of the United States during their first session.

Ordered, That Mr. *Clymer*, Mr. *W. Findley* and Mr. *Gallatin* be a committee. to bring in a bill conformably to the foregoing resolution.

Adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow, A.M.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Friday, 2 September 1791

The committee appointed for the purpose reported a bill, entitled, "*An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,*" which was read the first time, and

Ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That *Thursday* next be assigned for the second reading of the said bill, and that it be the order for that day.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Thursday, 8 September 1791

Agreeably to the order of the day, the bill, entitled "*An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,*" was read the second time.

On the question,—"Will the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the same by paragraphs."

It was, on motion,

Ordered, That the House will, in the present instance, dispense with the last sentence of the nineteenth rule for the government of this House.¹

Whereupon

The said bill was considered by paragraphs.

Ordered, That it be transcribed for a third reading.

1. On 31 December 1790 the first House of Representatives under the constitution of 1790 adopted "RULES and REGULATIONS" to govern the House. The nineteenth rule was "Every bill shall receive three several readings in the House, previous to its passage; but no bill shall be read twice in the same day. All bills of a public nature shall, after a first reading, be printed in handbills, for the use of the members. All bills of a public nature shall be

made the order of a day, and debated in a committee of the whole House previous to a third reading, unless the House shall direct otherwise.”

House of Representatives Proceedings, Friday, 9 September 1791

The bill, entitled “*An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,*” was read the third time, and considered by paragraphs.

Whereupon

Resolved, That the said bill do pass, and that it be transcribed, and transmitted to the Senate, for their concurrence.

Ordered, That Mr. *Gallatin* be a committee, to present the same to the Senate, for their concurrence.

Senate Proceedings, Friday, 9 September 1791 (excerpts)

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Gallatin a member of that House:

Mr. Speaker,

I am directed, by the House of Representatives, to present to the Senate, for their concurrence, the following bills, *viz.*

First. An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States. . . .

Mr. Gallatin accordingly presented the said two bills.

The bill, entitled, “An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,” was read the first time.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Saturday, 10 September 1791 (excerpts)

Mr. *Gallatin*, appointed to present to the Senate, for their concurrence, the bill, entitled “*An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,*” . . . reported that he had performed that service.

Senate Proceedings, Monday, 12 September 1791

On motion of Mr. Smilie, seconded by Mr. Powel, and

Agreed, That the second reading of the bill, entitled, “An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,” be the order of the day for Thursday next.

Senate Proceedings, Thursday, 15 September 1791

The bill, entitled, “An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,” was read the second time and considered paragraph by paragraph.

Section I. being read,

It was moved by Mr. Powel, seconded by Mr. Schmyser,

That the further consideration of the said bill be postponed.

The question being put, was carried in the negative.

The question on section I. being put, was carried in the affirmative.
The title of the bill being read and agreed to.
Resolved, That the said bill do pass, and be transcribed for the third reading.

Senate Proceedings, Friday, 16 September 1791

The bill, entitled, “An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,” was read the third time and considered paragraph by paragraph.

The title of the bill being read and agreed to,
Resolved, That the said bill do pass.

Ordered, That Mr. Heister be a committee to return the said bill to the House of Representatives, and inform that House that the Senate have passed the same.

House of Representatives Proceedings, Saturday, 17 September 1791

Mr. *Hiester*, a committee from the Senate, being introduced, delivered the following message, viz.

“Mr. SPEAKER,

I am directed by the Senate to return the bill, entitled “*An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,*” and to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate have passed the same.”

And having presented the said bill to the chair, he withdrew.

Senate Proceedings, Saturday, 17 September 1791

Mr. Heister reports, That, according to the order of the Senate, he has returned to the House of Representatives the bill, entitled, “An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,” and informed that House that the Senate have passed the same.

Senate Proceedings, Monday, 19 September 1791 (excerpts)

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Carson a member of that House:

“Mr. Speaker,

I am directed, by the House of Representatives, to inform the Senate, that the following bills are engrossed, viz. . . . ‘An act ratifying on the behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States,’ and to request the Senate will appoint a committee to join a committee of the House of Representatives to compare the said bills.”

Whereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. Hubley be a committee to join the committee of the House of Representatives and compare the said bills.

Senate Proceedings, Tuesday, 20 September 1791 (excerpts)

Mr. Hubley reports, That, according to the order of the Senate, he joined a committee of the House of Representatives and compared the four bills, entitled as follow, *to wit*, . . . An act

ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States. . . .

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Carson a member of that House:

“Mr. Speaker,

I am directed, by the House of Representatives, to present to the Senate, the four following bills, *viz.* . . . An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States . . . which bills are signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and I am directed to request, that the Speaker of the Senate will sign the same, likewise to request, the Senate to appoint a committee to join the committee of the House of Representatives and present the same to the Governor for his approbation.”

Whereupon, The Speaker signed the said four bills.

Ordered, That Mr. Hubley be a committee to join the committee of the House of Representatives and present the said four bills to the Governor for his approbation.

House Proceedings, Wednesday, 21 September 1791 (excerpts)

The committee appointed for the purpose reported, that they had, in conjunction with a committee of the Senate, compared, and presented to the Governor for his approbation, the four following Acts, *viz.* . . .

3d. *An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.*

Senate Proceedings, Wednesday, 21 September 1791 (excerpts)

The Senate met according to adjournment.

Mr. Hubley reports, That according to the order of the Senate, he joined a committee of the House of Representatives and presented to the Governor, for his approbation, the four bills, entitled, as follow, *viz.* . . . An act ratifying on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

***Governor Thomas Mifflin to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Philadelphia
21 September 1791 (excerpt)***

GENTLEMEN,

I have this day approved and signed the following acts of the General Assembly; and I have directed the Secretary to return them to the House of Representatives, in which they originated.

I. *An Act, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.* . . .

Act Ratifying Congress' First Amendment to the Constitution, 21 September 1791

An ACT, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

Whereas, in pursuance of the fifth article of the constitution of the United States, certain articles, in addition to and amendment of the said constitution, have been proposed by the Congress of the United States, for the consideration of the legislatures of the several states: And whereas the legislature of the state of Pennsylvania, having maturely deliberated thereupon, have

resolved to adopt and ratify the article hereafter mentioned, as part of the constitution of the United States:

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the following article, in addition to and amendment of the constitution of the United States of America, proposed by the Congress thereof, *viz.*

[Here appears the text of the First Amendment proposed by Congress.]

be, and it is hereby, ratified, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, to become, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, part of the constitution of the United States.

WILLIAM BINGHAM, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

RICHARD PETERS, *Speaker*
of the Senate.

Approved, September the twenty-first, 1791.

THOMAS MIFFLIN, *Governor*
of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Governor Thomas Mifflin to President George Washington, Philadelphia
21 September 1791

I have the honor to transmit to you, an exemplified copy of an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled “An Act ratifying, on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the Constitution of the United States”; and to be, with perfect consideration and respect,

House Proceedings, Friday, 23 September 1791

The Secretary of the commonwealth being introduced, presented to the chair a message from the Governor, which was read, as follows, *viz.*

[Here appears Governor Mifflin’s message of 21 September 1791 (above).]

Senate Proceedings, Friday, 23 September 1791

A message from the Governor by Mr. Dallas the Secretary of the commonwealth:

“Mr. Speaker,

I have the honor to deliver a message from the Governor to the Senate, and to inform you, that, in obedience to his directions, I have returned to the House of Representatives the several acts of the General Assembly, that are mentioned in the message, the same being approved and signed.”

The Secretary having accordingly presented the said message, the same was read as follows, *to wit,*

[Here appears Governor Mifflin’s message of 21 September 1791 (above).]

House Proceedings, Friday, 30 September 1791 (excerpts)

The committee appointed for the purpose reported, that they had deposited in the Rolls-Office the following acts of the General Assembly, *viz.* . . .

IV. An ACT, ratifying, on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, the first amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States.

Tobias Lear to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, New York, 27 October 1791 (excerpts)

By the President's command T. Lear has the honor to transmit to the Secy of State, to be deposited in his Office, . . .

An exemplified copy of an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, ratifying, on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania, the first amendt. proposed by congress to the constitution of the United States.—and a letter accompanying said act from the Governor of Pennsylvania to the President of the U.S.—

Governor Thomas Mifflin to the General Assembly, Philadelphia, 7 March 1792 (excerpt)

Gentlemen:

. . . By this opportunity you will, also, receive authenticated copies of the ratifications, by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the several states, of certain articles in addition to, and amendment of, the constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress. . . .

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXXVII: Bill of Rights [1] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2019), 546–64.