



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DECLARING DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE ORIGINAL 13TH AMENDMENT AS RECORDS OF PERMANENT VALUE AND REQUESTING THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CREATE A REPOSITORY FOR PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS.

WHEREAS, in 1810 an amendment to the United States Constitution prohibiting titles of nobility was introduced by United States Senator Philip Reed, passed both houses of Congress, and was sent to the states for ratification; and

WHEREAS, this amendment, now known as the original 13th Amendment, states "If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive or retain any title of nobility or honor, or shall, without the consent of Congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office or emolument of any kind whatever, from any Emperor, King, Prince or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them"; and

WHEREAS, 13 states were necessary to ratify the proposed amendment to make it part of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, 12 states ratified the original 13th Amendment between 1810 and 1812, shortly before the outbreak of the War of 1812, during which time many records were destroyed in the tumult of war; and

WHEREAS, there exists no record of ratification or rejection by the state of Virginia regarding the original 13th Amendment; nonetheless Virginia passed legislation to republish its civil code and the United States Constitution and its amendments on March 12, 1819; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's republication of the laws included the original 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, thereby announcing its ratification of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, word of Virginia's ratification of the original 13th Amendment spread to various states and

territories that also published the amendment and ordered copies of the United States Constitution with the original 13th Amendment for dissemination and use in schools; over a 41-year period, 11 different states and territories printed the amendment in 20 separate publications; and

WHEREAS, publication is prima facie evidence of the ratification of the original 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, documents relating to the original 13th Amendment and states' ratification and consideration of the amendment are valuable artifacts of our state and country and should have a secure and central location accessible by all Montanans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the documents relating to the original 13th Amendment and states' ratification and consideration of the amendment are records of permanent value worthy of preservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Historical Society should create a repository for the preservation of these records of permanent value concerning the original 13th Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Montana Historical Society and to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HJ 9, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

INTRODUCED BY J. READ

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