

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

### Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 2

Joint resolution urging Congress to admit Washington, DC, into the union as a state of the United States of America

Offered by: Representatives Satcowitz of Randolph, Anthony of Barre City, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carroll of Bennington, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Colchester, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Sibilia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Stebbins of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City

Whereas, the U.S. Constitution, as ratified following the Constitutional Convention of 1787, granted the right to vote for congressional representation to qualified voters in all the states, including those living in the sections of Maryland and Virginia that the “District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801” (the Act) designated as the nation’s capital, and

Whereas, the Act removed this territory from the states of Maryland and Virginia, disenfranchising the District of Columbia’s (the District) citizens from exercising the fundamental right to vote for public officials, and, for over a century, these American citizens could not participate in any local or federal election, and

Whereas, in 1961, the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave the District’s electorate the right to vote in presidential elections, and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted 2 U.S.C. § 25a, authorizing the District’s voters to elect a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and

Whereas, the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93–198, established local mayoral and city council elections in the District, but Congress has repeatedly interfered in the local government’s decision-making process, especially on budgetary matters, and

Whereas, the residents of the District, also known as Washington, DC, pay federal income tax, but are denied the full congressional representation—a voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives and two United States Senators—that exists in each of the 50 states, and

Whereas, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware have respectively introduced in the 118th Congress H.R.51 and S.51 to grant statehood to the District of Columbia, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly of the State of Vermont supports admitting Washington, DC, into the union as a state of the United States of America, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph Biden, to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to U.S. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.