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THE AVALON PROJECT *Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy*

Credentials of the members of the Federal Convention : State of New Hampshire; June 27, 1787 (1)

In the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven.

An Act for appointing Deputies from this State to the [Convention](#), proposed to be holden in the City of Philadelphia in May 1787 for the purpose of revising the [federal Constitution](#).

Whereas in the formation of the federal Compact, which frames the bond of Union of the American States, it was not possible in the infant state of our Republic to devise a system which in the course of time and experience, would not manifest imperfections that it would be necessary to reform.

And Whereas the limited powers, which by the [Articles of Confederation](#), are vested in the Congress of the United States, have been found far inadequate, to the enlarged purposes which they were intended to produce. And Whereas Congress hath, by repeated and most urgent representations, endeavoured to awaken this, and other States of the Union, to a sense of the truly critical and alarming situation in which they may inevitably be involved, unless timely measures be taken to enlarge the powers of Congress, that they may be thereby enabled to avert the dangers which threaten our existence as a free and independent People. And Whereas this State hath been ever desirous to act upon the liberal system of the general good of the United States, without circumscribing its views, to the narrow and selfish objects of partial convenience; and has been at all times ready to make every concession to the safety and happiness of the whole, which justice and sound policy could vindicate.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened that JOHN LANGDON, JOHN PICKERING, NICHOLAS GILMAN & BENJAMIN WEST ESQUIRES be and hereby are appointed Commissioners, they or any two of them, are hereby authorized, and empowered, as Deputies from this State to meet at Philadelphia said [Convention](#) or any other place, to which the [Convention](#) may be adjourned, for the purposes aforesaid, there to confer with such Deputies, as are, or may be appointed by the other States for similar purposes; and with them to discuss and decide upon the most effectual means to remedy the defects of our federal Union; and to procure, and secure, the enlarged purposes which it was intended to effect, and to report such an Act, to the United States in Congress, as when agreed to by them, and duly confirmed by the several States, will effectually provide for the same.

State of New Hampshire } In the House of Representatives
June 27th 1787.

The foregoing Bill having been read a third time, Voted that it pass to be enacted.

Sent up for Concurrence

JOHN SPARHAWK Speaker

In Senate, the same day-This Bill having been read a third time,-Voted that the same be enacted.

JNO SULLIVAN President.

Copy Examined.

Pr JOSEPH PEARSON Secy. (Seal appendt.)

(1) Reprinted from Documentary History of the Constitution, Vol. I (1894), pp. 9, 10. [Back](#)

Source:

Documents Illustrative of the Formation of the Union of the American States.
Government Printing Office, 1927.

House Document No. 398.

Selected, Arranged and Indexed by Charles C. Tansill
