

## Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

### **What Article V says in plain English (since 1959 when Hawaii became a state):**

The Congress of the United States,

shall *set forth* an Amendment to this Constitution, *for acceptance or rejection* by each of the States, only when,

at least 290 of the 435 Representatives in the House,

and,

at least 67 of the 100 Senators in the Senate

vote in favor of setting forth for acceptance or rejection such Amendment

or,

shall call a Convention for the purpose of *setting forth* Amendments to this Constitution, *for acceptance or rejection* by each of the States, whenever at least 34 of the 50 States (through their Legislatures) shall collectively make a request for such action,

any Amendment set forth by either of the above two methods shall be valid as part of this Constitution only after it has been approved by,

the Legislatures of 38 of the 50 States,

or,

by Conventions in 38 of of the 50 States,

as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress of The United States;

Provided that no Amendment may be set forth which would change the composition of the Senate without the approval of all 100 Senators.