

Transcript

The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was Debated in the Virginia General Assembly, August 13, 1919

No. 26. House Bill to authorize the mayor and council of the city of Williamsburg, in the county of James City, State of Virginia, to borrow money, issue warrants and bonds therefor, for the purpose of erecting a public school building, building a concrete street from the corporate limits on York street to the corporate limits on Richmond avenue, and to complete the water and sewer systems of said city, and providing for submission of the issuance of bonds for these purposes to the qualified voters of the said city; and

No. 7. House bill to empower the board of supervisors of Rockingham county to purchase and provide for the payment therefor of the Rawley Springs and Harrison turnpike, and the Harrisonburg and Franklin turnpike, or either of them.

A message was received from the House of Delegates, by MR. OZLIN, who informed the Senate that the House of Delegates had passed the following joint resolution; in which they requested the concurrence of the Senate:

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has duly submitted to the legislatures of the several States the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"Article—, section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."; therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Virginia (the House and the Senate concurring), That the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States be, and hereby is, rejected as an unwarranted, unnecessary, undemocratic and dangerous interference with the rights reserved to the States or to the people in both States and Federal Constitutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of the United States as the expressed will of the people of Virginia as registered in their Constitution and by their elected representatives in the General Assembly, to retain the fundamental rights of local self-government vested in the states or in the people; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon our sister States of the Union to uphold and defend the rights of each State to decide who shall vote for its own officers, and to oppose and reject any amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would transfer control of the State franchises to the Federal Congress without the consent of the people themselves as duly exercised under their several State constitutions.

MR. MAPP moved to indefinitely postpone the foregoing resolution.

MR. GOOLRICK moved as a substitute therefor that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections; which was rejected by the following vote—yeas, 13; nays, 20.

Citation: *Journal of the Senate (Extra Session) of the Commonwealth of Virginia Begun and Held at the Capitol in the City of Richmond on Wednesday, August 13, 1919.* Richmond: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1919.