



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 639

January Session, 2013

House Joint Resolution No. 3

House of Representatives, April 24, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the joint resolution ought to be adopted.

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE FREE SPEECH RIGHTS OF PERSONS.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the first amendment to the United States Constitution
2 was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not
3 corporations;

4 WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States
5 Supreme Court has transformed the first amendment into a powerful
6 tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-
7 enacted reforms;

8 WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the first amendment has
9 reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's
10 ruling in Citizens United v. FEC;

11 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
12 United v. FEC overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting

13 corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our
14 elections;

15 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
16 United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our
17 political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in
18 United States history;

19 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
20 United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used
23 the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously
24 wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the
25 heart of our democracy and self-government.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
27 General Assembly respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
28 United States to propose an amendment to the United States
29 Constitution, for ratification by the states, to provide that corporations
30 are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural
31 persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to
32 influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally
33 protected speech; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
35 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution be
36 transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of
37 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and all
38 members of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	10

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There would be costs of approximately \$10 in FY 14 for the Office of Legislative Management (OLM) to mail copies of this resolution to each house of Congress and to each member of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

The Out Years

There is no ongoing fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HJ 3

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SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 5 (04/05/2013)