

**HJR 4 - AS INTRODUCED**

2020 SESSION

20-2383

10/08

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION **4**

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to grant statehood to the District of Columbia.

SPONSORS: Rep. Buchanan, Merr. 15; Rep. Schultz, Merr. 18; Sen. Levesque, Dist 12

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This house joint resolution urges the members of the United States Congress to enact federal legislation or propose a constitutional amendment granting legislative autonomy and statehood to the District of Columbia.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty*

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to grant statehood to the District of Columbia.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1       Whereas, the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the District of  
2       Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the United States  
3       Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

4       Whereas, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of Columbia under the  
5       exclusive authority of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for members  
6       of Congress and the President and Vice President of the United States; and

7       Whereas, residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for the President  
8       and Vice President through passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States  
9       Constitution in 1961; and

10       Whereas, as of 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates that the District of Columbia's  
11       population at 693,972 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming (563,626), Vermont  
12       (625,741), and Alaska (710,231); and

13       Whereas, residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United States  
14       citizenship, including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries,  
15       and defending the United States as members of the United States armed forces in every war since  
16       the War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

17       Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed statehood for the  
18       District of Columbia and passed a District-wide referendum on budget autonomy; and

19       Whereas, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including participation  
20       in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

21       Whereas, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and citizenship  
22       enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

23       Whereas, the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered with the District of Columbia's  
24       limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its  
25       locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the  
26       fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that  
27       represents the will of their citizens; and

28       Whereas, although the District of Columbia has passed a balanced budget in a timely manner in  
29       each of the last 20 years, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of  
30       Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

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**- Page 2 -**

1       Whereas, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced in the 116th  
2 Congress H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington,  
3 D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including 2 Senators  
4 and at least one House member; and

5       Whereas, The United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United States  
6 Congress to address the District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of  
7 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the District of Columbia residents a  
8 violation of its charter agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now, therefore, be it

9       Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

10       That the members of the United States Congress are urged to enact federal legislation or propose  
11 a constitutional amendment granting legislative autonomy and statehood to the District of  
12 Columbia; and

13       That certified copies of this house joint resolution be sent by the house clerk to the President of  
14 the United States of America, President of the United States Senate, United States Senate Majority  
15 Leader, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Delegate to the United States  
16 House of Representatives for the District of Columbia, and the members of the New Hampshire  
17 Congressional delegation.