

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: S.F. 17

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Version: First unofficial engrossment

Authors: Dehn and others

Subject: Rights of entities; federal constitutional amendment

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Overview

This bill contains a resolution of the legislature requesting that Congress propose an amendment to the United States Constitution, or if the Congress does not propose the amendment on its own, that a constitutional convention be called for the purpose of proposing the amendment.

The requested amendment would specify the application of enumerated constitutional rights to natural persons only, and would further specify that artificial entities such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities do not have constitutional rights, and are subject to regulation in federal, state, or local law.

The amendment would also require regulation of contributions and expenditures in political campaigns, including public disclosure of permissible contributions, and prohibits the judiciary from interpreting the spending of money to influence elections as speech protected under the first amendment.