

## **Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

### ***Transparency and Accountability in Federal Legislation Amendment***

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#### **Section 1. Constitutional Impact Requirement**

No bill, joint resolution, or measure having the force of law shall be considered by either House of Congress unless accompanied by a **Constitutional Impact Statement**.

The Constitutional Impact Statement shall:

1. Identify the specific provisions of this Constitution relied upon as authority for the legislation;
2. Identify any rights secured by this Constitution that may be directly or indirectly affected;
3. Provide a good-faith explanation of the legislation's consistency with the text of this Constitution;
4. Address relevant historical understanding and judicial precedent;
5. Be made publicly available prior to consideration.

Failure to comply with this Section shall prohibit consideration of the legislation until compliance is achieved.

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#### **Section 2. Congressional Constitutional Office**

There is hereby established an independent office of the legislative branch known as the **Congressional Constitutional Office**.

The Congressional Constitutional Office shall:

1. Analyze proposed legislation for constitutional risk;
2. Assess the likelihood of judicial challenge and review;
3. Estimate the direct and indirect public costs associated with constitutional litigation and enforcement uncertainty;
4. Publish its analyses in a manner accessible to the public.

The Congressional Constitutional Office shall have **no authority** to approve, disapprove, delay, or veto legislation.

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### **Section 3. Independence and Structure**

The Director of the Congressional Constitutional Office shall be appointed for a fixed term by a method prescribed by law, with provisions ensuring independence, bipartisan participation, and removal only for cause.

Congress shall provide for the staffing, methodology, and transparency of the Office by law, consistent with the purposes of this Amendment.

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### **Section 4. Legislative Accountability and Public Record**

The analyses and assessments produced pursuant to this Amendment shall:

1. Form part of the permanent legislative record;
2. Be admissible as evidence of legislative intent;
3. Be publicly available without restriction.

Congress may by law provide for the aggregation and presentation of such analyses in a manner that facilitates public understanding of legislative activity and voting behavior.

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### **Section 5. Judicial Independence Preserved**

Nothing in this Amendment shall be construed to:

1. Confer advisory or preemptive judicial authority;
2. Bind or direct the judiciary in constitutional interpretation;
3. Alter the standards of judicial review;
4. Create any presumption of constitutionality or unconstitutionality.

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### **Section 6. Enforcement**

Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation consistent with its terms and purposes.

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**Section 7. Effective Date**

This Amendment shall take effect two years after ratification and shall apply to legislation introduced thereafter.