

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R02-0851.01 Jennifer Thomsen

HJR02-1053

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1053

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE 215TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE**
102 **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.**

1 WHEREAS, September 17, 2002, marks the 215th anniversary of
2 the United States Constitution; and

3 WHEREAS, On this day our nation celebrates the oldest written
4 national constitution currently in effect, a landmark legal document that
5 is a testament to the wisdom and foresight of its authors and that serves
6 as a model for democratic governments around the world; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution, a document of
8 remarkable fairness and flexibility that has served our nation well for over
9 two centuries, created a balance of powers and responsibilities among the
10 three branches of government and among the federal government, the
11 states, and individual citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, The adoption of the first ten amendments to the
13 United States Constitution, known collectively as the Bill of Rights,
14 added a clear concise enumeration of the fundamental rights of
15 **individuals by further restricting the powers of the federal government;**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
Final Reading
April 30, 2002

1 and

2 WHEREAS The 9th Amendment to the United States Constitution
3 clarified that plenary powers rested in the state and the people; and

4 WHEREAS The 10th Amendment to the United States
5 Constitution provided a further restriction on the purview of the federal
6 government by prohibiting the assumption or arrogation of power that is
7 not clearly expressed in the Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights
9 together express our nation's commitment to the principles first set out in
10 the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident,
11 that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator
12 with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and
13 the pursuit of Happiness"; and

14 WHEREAS, The celebration of the anniversary of the United
15 States Constitution reminds us that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
16 can only be effective guarantees of our rights and freedoms if we
17 understand and appreciate the principles they enshrine; now, therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*
19 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
20 *herein:*

21 That we, the members of the Sixty-third General Assembly,
22 encourage the citizens of the State of Colorado to reflect not only on their
23 many rights, but also on their responsibilities as citizens of this great
24 nation on the 215th anniversary of the United States Constitution,
25 September 17, 2002.

26 *Be It Further Resolved* That copies of this Joint Resolution be
27 sent to Governor Bill Owens and Colorado's Congressional Delegation to
28 the United States Congress.