

**Proponent Testimony of Steve Jones for HB 67, re: Article V
Amending Convention Commissioner Legislation**

Chair Hall , Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey,
and members of the committee,

My name is Steve Jones from House District 56. I first signed a petition supporting Article V Convention of States back in the fall of 2013. I am seeking your support for HB 67.

It is my joy to provide proponent testimony in the Government Oversight Committee, for our Article V companion legislation.

In 2019, my then representative and senator requested that I provide some sort of Delegate selection and Conduct Legislation to address their concerns. I studied the passed states companion legislation and (from scratch) composed my own legislation. HB67 was composed by people smarter than this plumber you see before you today!

HB67 provides procedures regarding the selection, instruction, and oversight of commissioners to an Article V amending convention. It includes criminal penalties for any commissioner who violates their instructions. Frankly, this companion legislation should have been passed by the legislature immediately after passing the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) Article V convention resolution. This common sense bill is long overdue. It provides a process which requires that delegates to be faithful to the wise opinions of the Ohio legislature and to common sense Ohioans.

First, I would like to note that HB67 cites (Lines 13,20) that the authority for any Article V convention is “UNDER” Article V of the constitution. The topics to be discussed must conform to the scope of the originating resolution and call of that convention. States like Ohio are only discussing proposing amendment/s. Article V already outlines the ultimate methods of ratification to any amendment proposal.

Second, all of the authority to select, authorize, discipline, recall and replace commission delegates resides with the General Assembly (Lines 31 32 65 67 71 77 86 120, 121, 142 186 202) or the Advisory Committee. Congress will not be choosing or controlling our Ohio delegates. The Governor will not be choosing or controlling our Ohio delegates either.

You may soon be approving HB67 to move to the floor for a vote. Your fellow representatives and all Ohioans deserve for you to pass HB67 out of committee. The people want to know that the Ohio legislature has a process of selecting convention delegates and keep them on the “straight and narrow”. Human nature is corruptible, but this legislation will create and ensure a good system that places adequate checks on ambition and avarice to protect Ohioans and all of America.

I now ask you to support both HJR2 and HB67.

Steve Jones

