

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 323

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Attorney General should
be an elected officer of the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas (for himself and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) submitted
the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Attorney General
should be an elected officer of the Federal Govern-
ment.

Whereas the Attorney General of the United States is the
chief law enforcement officer of the Federal Government;

Whereas the Attorney General is nominated by the President
and confirmed by the Senate;

Whereas once confirmed by the Senate, the Attorney General
serves at the will of the President and is a member of
the President's cabinet;

Whereas the Attorney General is often confronted with a con-
flict of interest when an investigation of alleged mis-
conduct by high-level officials of the Federal Government
is necessary;

Whereas Attorneys General in several recent administrations have been confronted with possible conflicts of interest;

Whereas these conflicts seriously compromise the Attorney General's ability to investigate alleged misconduct by high-level officials of the Federal Government;

Whereas the public lacks confidence in the Attorney General's independence when an investigation of alleged misconduct by high-level officials of the Federal Government is necessary;

Whereas the creation of the independent counsel in 1978 did not solve the problem of the Attorney General's lack of independence;

Whereas since the "Iran-Contra" investigation 22 independent counsels have been appointed, and their investigations have cost taxpayers nearly \$130,000,000;

Whereas 43 States provide for the election of their attorneys general; and

Whereas the independent election of the Attorney General would protect the Attorney General from conflicts of interest when investigations of alleged misconduct by high-level officials of the Federal Government are necessary: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3 (1) the Attorney General should be an elected
- 4 officer of the Federal Government; and

1 (2) the Congress should propose an amendment
2 to the Constitution providing for the independent
3 election of the Attorney General.

○