

TWENTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT
TO THE
CONSTITUTION

CERTIFICATION OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY AND VICE PRESIDENCY AND TO CASES WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, That the Congress of the United States, at the first session, eighty-ninth Congress begun at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of January, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, passed a Joint Resolution in the words and figures as follows: to wit—

Twenty-fifth
Amendment to the
Constitution.

79 Stat. 1327.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to succession to the Presidency and Vice Presidency and to cases where the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

"Article—

"SECTION 1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

"SEC. 2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

"SEC. 3. Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

"SEC. 4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

"Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office."

States ratifying
proposed amend-
ment.

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in the General Services Administration that the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed as aforesaid has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

And, further, that the States whose Legislatures have so ratified the said proposed Amendment constitute the requisite three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States.

65 Stat. 710.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, by virtue and in pursuance of Section 106b, Title 1 of the United States Code, do hereby certify that the Amendment aforesaid has become valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the General Services Administration to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven.

[SEAL]

LAWSON B. KNOTT, Jr.

The foregoing was signed in my presence on this 23rd day of February, 1967.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON