

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019**

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HOUSE BILL 512

Short Title: "We the People" Act/Referendum. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dahle and Insko (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Elections and Ethics Law, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 1, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA A REFERENDUM
2 URGING CONGRESS TO PASS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
3 UNITED STATES DECLARING THAT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS BELONG ONLY
4 TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOT TO CORPORATIONS OR OTHER ARTIFICIAL
5 ENTITIES AND THAT CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED FREE SPEECH
6 EXCLUDES THE UNLIMITED SPENDING OF MONEY ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGN
7 CONTRIBUTIONS.
8

9 Whereas, Section 2 of Article I of the Constitution of North Carolina asserts that "[a]ll
10 political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from
11 the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole";
12 and

13 Whereas, free and fair elections, as well as honest representation, are essential to
14 self-determination and self-governance as described in the Declaration of Independence and
15 established in the Constitution of the United States; and

16 Whereas, the American people have lost faith in the political process because their
17 voices are not heard nor their interests represented, and thus, an ever smaller percentage of
18 Americans is motivated to vote; and

19 Whereas, the Constitution of the United States makes no mention of corporations or
20 other artificial entities and there are no provisions extending rights to such entities; however,
21 through a series of decisions equating a "corporation" with a "person," the United States Supreme
22 Court has extended to corporations the constitutional rights and protections intended for people
23 only; and

24 Whereas, unlike human beings, corporations can exist in perpetuity and in many
25 countries at the same time, and, as a result, many large corporations, both foreign and domestic,
26 invest in campaigns to invalidate or bypass regulatory law intended to protect the public, and, as
27 such, corporate participation in the political process often conflicts with the public interest; and

28 Whereas, money is property and not speech and nowhere in the Constitution of the
29 United States is money equated with speech; and

30 Whereas, because advertising is limited and costly, equating the spending of money
31 with free speech gives those with the most money the most speech; and

32 Whereas, whenever special interests, including very wealthy individuals, are able to
33 spend unlimited amounts of money on political speech, candidates and officeholders can be
34 corrupted and intimidated and the free speech of most citizens is drowned out and denied; and



