



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES NO.**

**04**

---

INTRODUCED BY  
**REPRESENTATIVE LORENZ R. DEFENSOR**

---

**RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS  
CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 2022  
TO REVISE OR PROPOSE AMENDMENTS  
TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It has been thirty-two years since the 1987 Constitution was passed. The times have changed and we cannot ignore the fact that the only constant in life is change itself- even for constitutions.

While our vigilance to maintain freedom and democracy as enshrined in the Constitution must remain steadfast, our laws, the government and the economy must adapt and evolve if we are to attain the progress and political stability envisioned by our forefathers.

Unfortunately, since 1987, the Philippines has been left behind by its neighbors in South East Asia. The country shook the world with the first peaceful revolution but hardly had any economic revolution to speak of. We are currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in Asia in terms of GDP behind Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia.

Significantly, we are one of the remaining few countries in Asia that maintains restrictions and limitations on foreign ownership in certain critical industries such as transportation, telecommunications, and the development of oil and gas industry.

At the time our current Constitution was passed, the framers crafted a rigid document to ensure it will protect against almost all forms of abuse in government. The 1987 Constitution clearly lays down a bill of rights, our safeguards against dictatorship, and constitutional commissions to maintain accountability in public office as well as provisions to protect natural resources. It is a great Constitution. But no matter how comprehensive the Constitution may be, it cannot ensure progress and stability through its rigidity.


Updating the Constitution will strengthen our sovereignty over lands and seas that historically belong to our National Territory. It will also allow us to review and increase, if necessary, the qualifications of elective and appointive officials in government. Furthermore, amending certain economic provisions will spur economic growth through partnerships and foreign investments.

Since 1987, countless attempts in Congress to amend our Constitution only failed for lack of support from the public. The most recent of which was in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, where our lawmakers tried to pass a new constitution and shift to a federal form of government. Again, it failed. Certainly, calling for a constituent assembly for the House of Representatives and the Senate to convene and pass a new Constitution will not win the confidence of the public. It will only sow distrust as to our motives and divide the country even more. Significantly, convening a constituent assembly will only take time and resources away from both Houses of Congress, whose primary mandate is to pass the national budget and enact priority measures.

This 18<sup>th</sup> Congress has the best chance to pave the way for the most appropriate and acceptable manner to amend or even revise the Constitution: through a constitutional convention. This Congress need only to pass this resolution calling for such con-con to be convened in 2022 with the delegates thereof to be elected simultaneously during the national and local elections of the same year.

We cannot afford to lose more time debating what needs to be amended if we cannot pass any amendment at all. With a con-con in 2022, the Filipinos can choose who are fit to decide what needs to be amended in the Constitution without subjecting Congress to the judgment of the people.

I fervently hope that this resolution of both houses of Congress will pass and that the long-sought amendments to the 1987 Constitution will come to reality.



**LORENZ R. DEFENSOR**



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES NO. 04**

---

INTRODUCED BY  
**REPRESENTATIVE LORENZ R. DEFENSOR**

---

**RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS  
CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 2022  
TO REVISE OR PROPOSE AMENDMENTS  
TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**WHEREAS**, it has been thirty-two years since the 1987 Constitution was passed and the same must adapt and evolve to attain economic progress and political stability;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has been left behind by its neighbors in South East Asia in terms of economic and political growth due to the rigidity of our Constitution and laws;

**WHEREAS**, since 1987, the attempts by Congress to amend the Constitution failed for lack public support and distrust from the people as to its motives for amending the same;

**WHEREAS**, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution provides that a Constitutional Convention as one of the modes of amending or revising the Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, a Constitutional Convention is one of the most democratic and participatory modes of amending the Constitution where the people can directly choose who are fit to decide what needs to be amended in the Constitution;



**WHEREAS**, the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress can pave the way for the most acceptable manner of amending the Constitution by passing this resolution calling for a Constitutional Convention to be convened in 2022 with its delegates to be elected simultaneously during the national and local elections of the same year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES and the SENATE OF THE PHILIPINES, by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Members of each House voting separately, to call for a Constitutional Convention to be convened in 2022 after electing its delegates to revise or propose amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Congress shall enact an enabling legislation that will embody all details and processes relative to the convening of the Constitutional Convention.

**ADOPTED.**