

LAWMAKERS IN 35 STATES MOVE

Obama's socialist power grabs, multi-trillion-dollar budgets

In response to the Obama administration's unprecedented expansion of federal power, a movement to reclaim states' constitutional rights is exploding across the nation, with at least 35 states considering such proposals – and five already passing sovereignty resolutions all the way through both houses of their legislatures.

The various sovereignty measures in state legislatures are designed to reassert state authority through a rollback of federal authority under the powers enumerated in the Constitution, with the states assuming the governance of the non-enumerated powers, as required by the Tenth Amendment.

According to the Tenth Amendment Center (online at www.TenthAmendmentCenter.com), at least 70 percent of states have launched such provisions based on the Tenth Amendment, which stipulates that “powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

“What we are trying to do is to get the U.S. Congress out of the state's business,” said Oklahoma Republican state Sen. Randy Brogdon, lead sponsor of the Oklahoma Senate's version of the sovereignty bill.

“Congress is completely out of line spending trillions of dollars over the last 10 years putting the nation into a debt crisis like we've never seen before,” Brogdon said, arguing that the Obama stimulus plan is the last straw taxing state patience in the brewing sovereignty dispute.

“This particular 111th Congress is the biggest bunch of over-reachers and underachievers we've ever had in Congress,” he said.

“A sixth-grader should realize you can't borrow money to pay off your debt, and that is the Obama administration's answer for a stimulus package,” he added.

One example of a state legislature's response would be South Carolina's S. 424, titled: “To affirm South Carolina's sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution over all powers not enumerated and granted to the federal government by the United States Constitution.”



Sen. Randy Brogdon

State Sen. Lee Bright says the proposal notes specifically that the “federal government was created by the states ... to be an agent of the states,” but that the states currently “are treated as agents of the federal government” – often in violation of the Constitution. The resolution states:



Sen. Lee Bright

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring: That the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, claims for the State of South Carolina sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the United States Constitution.

Be it further resolved that all federal governmental agencies, quasi-governmental agencies, and their agents and employees operating within the geographic boundaries of the State of South Carolina, and all federal governmental agencies and their agents and employees, whose actions have effect on the inhabitants or lands or waters of the State of South Carolina, shall operate within the confines of the original intent of the Constitution of the United States and abide by the provisions of the Constitution of South Carolina, the South Carolina statutes, or the common law as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

Bright says the movement is spreading from state to state as fast as lawmakers discover it.

Michael Boldin, a spokesman for the Tenth Amendment Center, said his organization has created a posting for all such proposals to be tracked. Among the states where such proposals have been considered are: Louisiana, Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois, West Virginia, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Nevada, Oregon, Alabama, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Idaho, New Mexico, South Dakota, Virginia, Kentucky, Alaska, Indiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Minnesota, South Carolina, Georgia, Kansas, Texas, New Hampshire, Missouri, Iowa, Montana, Michigan, Arizona, Washington and Oklahoma.

TO RECLAIM SOVEREIGNTY

prompt legislator revolt *By Jerome Corsi and Bob Unruh* Copyright 2009 WorldNetDaily.com Inc.

In North Dakota, it passed the House and Senate both in April, with the House a short time later adopting changes made by the Senate.

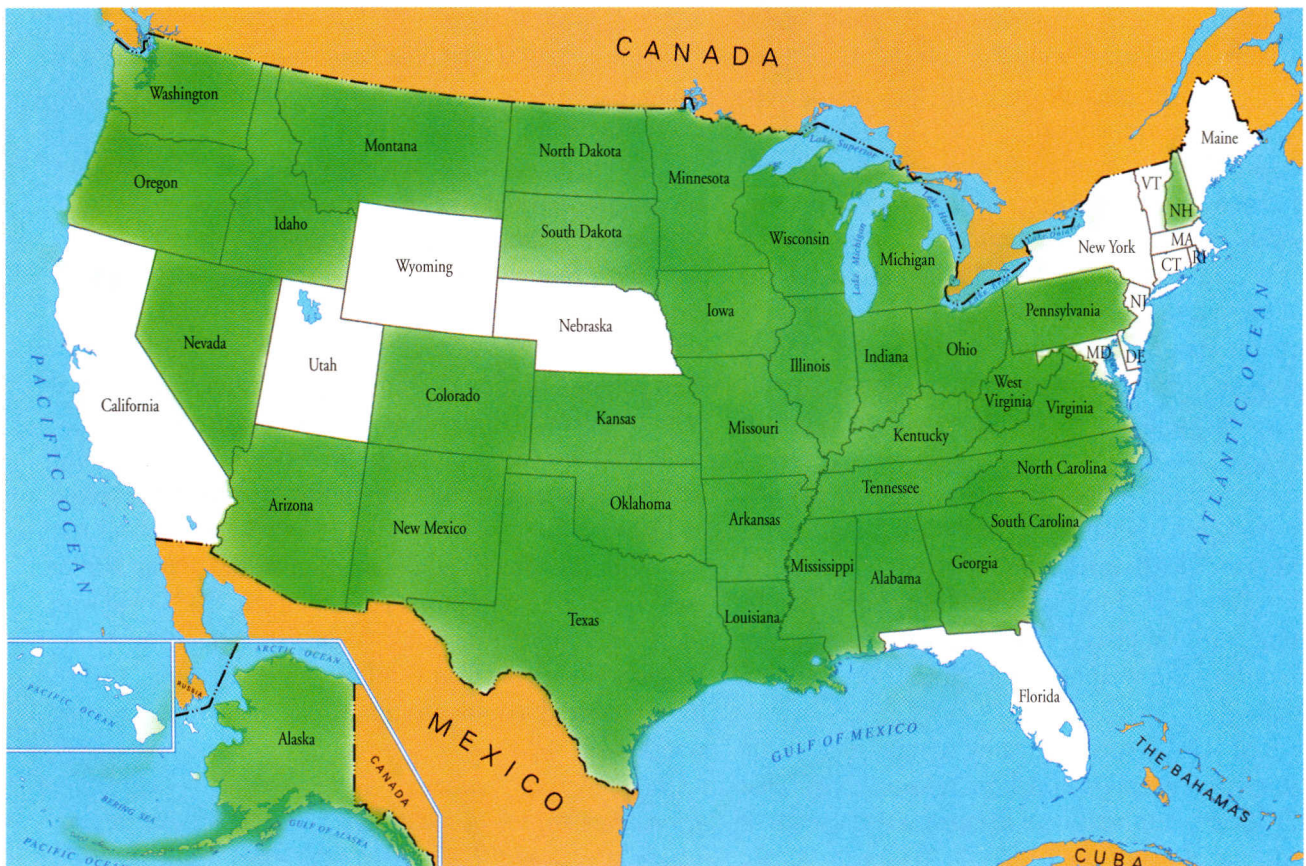
In South Dakota, it was approved by both houses of the Legislature, and under that state's rules does not need the governor's signature. South Dakota Rep. M.J. "Manny" Steele, a Republican, says he believes up to \$11 trillion will be wasted in the coming years by Washington's efforts "to duplicate and micromanage our states' affairs." States should manage their own affairs, he said, and not be dependent on a federal cash cow to make ends meet.

Steele said his dollar estimate was based on what President Obama himself has allocated in the coming years to spend on stimulus packages, industry bailouts and the like. He noted that

Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Carolina's legislatures joined South Dakota's in passing some statement on the Tenth Amendment this year. The results vary based on state procedures, however. In Oklahoma, after the governor vetoed the plan, it was launched on its second trip through the legislature.

"Over the course of decades, there have been increasing federal mandates and acts designed to effectively step in and legislate the affairs of our various states from Washington D.C.," Steele said. "Federal usurpation into state affairs severely limits the ability of state governments to operate according to their citizens' wishes."

Indeed, particularly disturbing to many state legislators are the increasing number of "unfunded mandates" that have pro-



Green states indicate those currently considering sovereignty resolutions.

liferated in social welfare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, in which bills passed by Congress dictate policy to the states without providing funding.

In addition, the various state resolutions include discussion of a wide range of policy areas, including the regulation of firearms sales (Montana) and the demand to issue drivers licenses with technology to embed personal information under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and the Real ID Act (Michigan).

Hawaii's measure calls for a new state constitutional convention to return to self-governance, a complaint that traces back to the days it was a U.S. territory, prior to achieving statehood in 1959.

"We are trying to send a message to the federal government that the states are trying to reclaim their sovereignty," said Republican Rep. Matt Shea, lead sponsor of Washington's sovereignty resolution. "State sovereignty has been eroded in so many areas, it's hard to know where to start. There are a ton of federal mandates imposed on states, for instance, on education spending and welfare spending."

He added: "In the state of Washington, we have increased state spending 33 percent in the last three years and hired 6,000 new state employees, often using federal mandates as an excuse to grow state government. We need to return government back down to the people, to keep government as close to the local people as possible."

Shea is a private attorney who serves with the Alliance Defense Fund, a nationwide network of about 1,000 attorneys who work pro-bono. As a counterforce to the ACLU, the ADF seeks to protect and defend religious liberty, the sanctity of life and traditional family values.

Republican state Rep. Judy Burges, the primary sponsor of the sovereignty resolution in the Arizona House, says the federal government "has been trouncing on our constitutional rights."

"The real turning point for me was the Real ID act, which involved both a violation of the Fourth Amendments rights against the illegal searches and seizures and the Tenth Amendment," she said. Burges says she's concerned that the overreaching of federal powers could lead to new legislation aimed at confiscating weapons from citizens or encoding ammunition.

"The Real ID Act was so broadly written that we are afraid that it involves the potential for 'mission-creep,' that could easily involve confiscation of firearms and violations of the Second Amendment," she said.

Burges said she has been surprised at the number of e-mails she has received in support of the sovereignty measure.

"We are a sovereign state in Arizona, not a branch of the federal government, and we need to be treated as such," she insisted.

Seduction of the Stimulus

The biggest obstacle to the state sovereignty movement this year has been the seduction of federal dollars, particularly with the current economic woes being suffered throughout the states. Bluntly stated, the availability of Obama's \$787 billion in stimulus dollars has weakened the resolve of states' rights activists in many state legislatures.

"They lay the bait out, and we come take it. Then we whine that we've taken it," Idaho state Sen. Monty Pearce, a Republican, told the New York Times. Pearce sponsored the sovereignty resolution that passed the Idaho Legislature.

"The stimulus money created a problem for us with the sovereignty thing," Republican Idaho state Rep. JoAn Wood told the Times. "We'd like to stand on principle."

So far, only four states have actually passed sovereignty measures successfully through their full legislatures – Alaska, Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota. A fifth, Oklahoma, passed a sovereignty resolution through both houses, but it was vetoed by Gov. Brad Henry, a Democrat, who said he objected to the resolution's suggestion that Oklahoma should return federal tax dollars and "that past and present U.S. leaders had violated the U.S. Constitution and committed crimes against the states," the Times reported.

However, the Oklahoma Legislature "is expected to pass a new, less-strident measure that would not require the governor's signature," said the report.

Although one could view these results as disappointing, sovereignty backers say the glass is definitely half full – whereas a few months ago it was empty.

"Even though the bill didn't pass, the message got out there," Washington's Shea told the Times. For while the first-term Republican's sovereignty resolution was blocked from even getting a hearing in Washington's Democrat-controlled state Legislature, Shea's effort – one of the first such resolutions filed this year – provided the impetus, including some actual language, that ended up in the resolution that passed in Idaho.

With the Obama administration working non-stop to concentrate ever more power in Washington, D.C. – and with more and more Americans seeing this trend as riding roughshod over the Constitution – state legislators, backed by widespread popular support, say they're just getting warmed up.

Jerome R. Corsi is senior staff reporter for WND and Whistleblower and the author of two No. 1 New York Times bestsellers, "The Obama Nation" and "Unfit for Command" (co-authored with John O'Neill). Bob Unruh is a news editor for WorldNet-Daily.com and Whistleblower.