

Constitutional Phrases

Commerce Clause Article I - Section 8

Regulate commerce with foreign nations and among states (national economic power)

Full Faith and Credit Article I - Section 8

No discrimination vs. out-of-state residents
No special privileges for state residents

Elastic Clause or Necessary and Proper Clause Article I - Section 8

Enumerates the powers of Congress and provides Congress with the authority to make all laws which are “necessary and proper” to carry them out

Privileges and Immunities Article IV and 14th Amendment

States honor the public acts and judicial decisions of other states

Supremacy Clause Article VI

Laws and treaties of the national government are the supreme law of the land and superior to all laws adopted by any state or subdivision

Free Exercise Clause 1st Amendment

Protects a citizen’s right to believe and practice whatever religion he or she chooses

Establishment Clause 1st Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” A “wall of separation” exists between church and state.

Equal Protection Clause 14th Amendment

Guarantees citizens the “equal protection of the laws.” This clause has been the basis for civil rights of various groups