

## **Ecuador: Congress Approves Referendum on Constitutional Assembly**

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President Rafael Correa won congressional approval of a plan to hold a nationwide referendum on convening an assembly to rewrite [Ecuador](#)'s Constitution. The measure was approved by a vote of 57 to 1 in the 100-seat Congress after opposition legislators declined to vote. Mr. Correa, left, a leftist economist educated in the United States and Belgium, says a new constitution is needed to weaken the influence of traditional political parties, which have ousted presidents with ease over the last decade. The country's top election court set April 15 for the referendum, a court member told a local radio station, according to Reuters.