



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 334

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Joint Resolution No. 21

House of Representatives, March 31, 2008

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. CARUSO of the 126th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute joint resolution ought to be adopted.

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD PERSONS WHO WILL BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE AT THE NEXT REGULAR ELECTION TO VOTE IN PRIMARIES RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Section 1. Article fourteenth of the amendments to the constitution
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Any citizen who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or
8 before the day of a regular election may apply for admission as an
9 elector at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by law,
10 and, if qualified, shall become an elector on the day of his or her
11 eighteenth birthday. Any citizen who has not yet attained the age of
12 eighteen years but who will have attained the age of eighteen years on

13 or before the day of a regular election, who is otherwise qualified to be
14 an elector and who has applied for admission as an elector in such
15 manner as may be prescribed by law, may vote in any primary
16 election, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, held for such
17 regular election.

18 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
19 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
20 elected at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008, and
21 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
22 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008,
23 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
24 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
25 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and
26 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
27 State be amended to permit any person who will have attained the age
28 of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election to vote in
29 the primary for such regular election?"

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The words "of age" were deleted for purposes of clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Secretary of the State	GF - None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

It is expected that the Secretary of the State will be able to cover costs associated with printing the proposed constitutional amendment, and the required posters within anticipated budgetary resources. Since the materials required for placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot are supplied by the State, no additional costs will be incurred by municipalities.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above would also be incurred in FY 2011 for the 2010 general election.

OLR Bill Analysis**HJ 21*****RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD PERSONS WHO WILL BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE AT THE NEXT REGULAR ELECTION TO VOTE IN PRIMARIES RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment allowing 17-year-old citizens who will turn 18 on or before the day of a regular election to vote in its primary. Under the resolution, such an individual must apply and otherwise qualify for admission as an elector. He or she may then vote in the primary held to determine nominees for the regular election. Upon turning 18, the individual's electoral rights attach. By law, a "regular election" means any state or municipal election.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit any person who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election to vote in the primary for such regular election?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the General Assembly, it will be placed on the 2008 general election ballot. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2009 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2010 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 1 (03/10/2008)