



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 5557

\*HJ0002105557SR0\*

Offered by:

SEN. DEBICELLA, 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. CALIGIURI, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Joint Resolution  
No. 21

File No. 334

Cal. No. 475

**"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."**

1 In line 1, before "That", insert "Section 1."

2 After line 29, insert the following:

3 "Sec. 501. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the  
4 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the  
5 manner provided by the Constitution, shall to all intents and purposes,  
6 become a part thereof:

7 Section 1. Section 1 of article third of the Constitution is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 The legislative power of this state, except for the powers of initiative

10 and referendum reserved by the people, shall be vested in two  
11 distinct houses or branches; the one to be styled the senate, the other  
12 the house of representatives, and both together the general assembly.  
13 The style of their laws shall be: Be it enacted by the Senate and House  
14 of Representatives in General Assembly convened.

15 Section 2. Article eleventh of the Constitution is amended by  
16 adding sections 6 and 7 as follows:

17 (NEW) Sec. 6. An initiative measure may be proposed by presenting  
18 to the Secretary of the State a petition that sets forth the text of the  
19 proposed law and that is certified to have been signed by a number of  
20 electors equal to at least five per cent of those registered to vote in the  
21 preceding gubernatorial election. The initiative shall be voted on in  
22 the next general election after certifying the petition, and shall be valid  
23 if it receives a majority of "yes" votes with at least sixty per cent of the  
24 eligible voters casting ballots. No initiative measure may be  
25 introduced that (1) names an individual to hold any office, (2) names a  
26 private corporation to perform any function or to have any power, (3)  
27 creates or abolishes courts, prescribes their rules or alters their  
28 decisions, (4) proposes special legislation affecting municipalities, (5)  
29 increases spending without increasing taxes, or (6) was the subject of  
30 an initiative proposal within the three preceding calendar years. The  
31 General Assembly may amend an initiative passed by the public, but  
32 only after three years after its implementation date.

33 (NEW) Sec. 7. A referendum measure may be proposed by  
34 presenting to the Secretary of the State a petition that sets forth the law  
35 or part thereof to be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection  
36 and that is certified to have been signed by a number of electors equal  
37 to at least five per cent of those registered to vote in the preceding  
38 gubernatorial election. The referendum shall be voted on in the next  
39 general election after certifying the petition, and shall be valid if it  
40 receives a majority of "yes" votes with at least sixty per cent of the  
41 eligible voters casting ballots. No referendum shall be allowed that (1)  
42 changes laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public

43 peace, (2) changes health or safety standards, (3) changes laws  
44 requiring elections, (4) names a private corporation to perform any  
45 function or to have any power, (5) creates or abolishes courts,  
46 prescribes their rules or alters their decisions, (6) proposes special  
47 legislation affecting municipalities, (7) increases spending without  
48 increasing taxes, or (8) was the subject of a referendum in the three  
49 preceding calendar years. The General Assembly may amend a  
50 referendum passed by the public, but only after three years after its  
51 implementation date.

52 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
53 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
54 elected at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008, and  
55 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented  
56 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008,  
57 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the  
58 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed  
59 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and  
60 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the  
61 State be amended to grant the powers of initiative and referendum to  
62 the people of Connecticut?"