General Assembly

**Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 36**

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 2783

Referred to Committee on **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS**

 Introduced by:
  REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.
  REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
  SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
  SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO GRANT INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1  WHEREAS, at the 2012 regular session of the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, said General Assembly did approve, by at least a majority, but by less than three-fourths, of the total membership of each house, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State which amendment, in accordance with article sixth of the amendments to the Constitution, was published in the manner prescribed therein and continued to the present regular session of the General Assembly, and which resolution is as follows:

9  "Resolved by this Assembly:
That the following be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes, become a part thereof:

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

The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity] do not appear in person at a polling place on the day of an election.

Sec. 2. Section 4 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

[At the meetings of the electors in the respective towns held quadrennially as herein provided for the election of state officers, the presiding officers shall receive the votes and shall count and declare the same in the presence of the electors.] The votes at the election of state officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the presiding officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered [within three days] to the town clerk, and [within ten days after such meeting.] the other shall be delivered under seal to the secretary of the state. The votes so delivered shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer, secretary, and comptroller, within the month of November. The vote for treasurer shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the secretary and comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer and comptroller only; and the
vote for comptroller shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the
treasurer and secretary only. A fair list of the persons and number of
votes given for each, together with the returns of the presiding officers,
shall be, by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller, made and laid
before the general assembly, then next to be held, on the first day of
the session thereof. In the election of governor, lieutenant-governor,
secretary, treasurer, comptroller and attorney general, the person
found upon the count by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller in
the manner herein provided, to be made and announced before
December fifteenth of the year of the election, to have received the
greatest number of votes for each of such offices, respectively, shall be
elected thereto; provided, if the election of any of them shall be
contested as provided by statute, and if such a contest shall proceed to
final judgment, the person found by the court to have received the
greatest number of votes shall be elected. If two or more persons shall
be found upon the count of the treasurer, secretary and comptroller to
have received an equal and the greatest number of votes for any of
said offices, and the election is not contested, the general assembly on
the second day of its session shall hold a joint convention of both
houses, at which, without debate, a ballot shall be taken to choose such
officer from those persons who received such a vote; and the balloting
shall continue on that or subsequent days until one of such persons is
chosen by a majority vote of those present and voting. The general
assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and prescribing
the order and manner of voting for such officers. The general assembly
shall by law prescribe the manner in which all questions concerning
the election of a governor or lieutenant-governor shall be determined.

Sec. 3. Section 9 of article third of the Constitution is amended to
read as follows:

At all elections for members of the general assembly the presiding
officers in the several towns shall [receive the votes of the electors,
and] count and declare [them] the votes of the electors in open
meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of
the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list shall be delivered [within three days] to the town clerk, and [within ten days after such meeting,] the other shall be delivered under seal to the secretary of the state.

RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly elected at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012, and published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented to the electors at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012, whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be used on ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY: That the said amendment so proposed is approved and that it be presented to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2014.