
OLR Bill Analysis

SJ 14

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMIT EARLY VOTING.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to (1) eliminate the requirement that electors gather on the day of an election to vote for state officers and state legislators and (2) authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for in-person early voting for state or municipal elections or referenda. Under the amendment, electors may vote early only in the municipality where they reside.

The amendment also lifts the constitutional deadlines by which the lists of results (i.e., moderator returns) for state officers and state legislators must be delivered to town clerks and the secretary of the state (within three and 10 days after an election, respectively). The General Statutes set earlier deadlines by which moderators must submit these returns (see BACKGROUND).

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 allow the General Assembly to provide opportunities for early voting in person prior to the day of an 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 2020 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 2021 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2022 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting on the amendment in the general election approves it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

BACKGROUND

Moderator Returns

The statutes require moderators to do the following:

1. prepare a preliminary list of results and electronically transmit it to the secretary of the state by midnight on election day,
2. electronically transmit a “duplicate list of the votes” to the secretary no later than 48 hours after the polls close,
3. deliver a sealed copy of the duplicate list to the secretary no later than the third day after the election, and
4. provide a copy of the duplicate list to the town clerk (CGS § 9-314).

Related Constitutional Amendment

sHJ 161 (File 436), reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, proposes a constitutional amendment to require an early voting period and allow for no-excuse absentee voting.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 5 (03/29/2019)