



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 15**

February Session, 2020

LCO No. 1774



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT EARLY VOTING.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

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

7 Sec. 7. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the
8 choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on
9 at an election by qualified voters of the state who are unable to appear
10 at the polling place on the day of election because of absence from the
11 city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or
12 physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular
13 activity. The general assembly may further provide by law for voting in
14 person prior to the day of election in the choice of any officer to be

15 elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified
16 voters of the state.

17 Section 9 of article third of the Constitution is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Sec. 9. At all elections for members of the general assembly the
20 presiding officers in the several towns shall [receive the votes of the
21 electors, and] count and declare [them] the votes of the electors in open
22 meeting. The presiding officers shall make and certify duplicate lists of
23 the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each. One list shall
24 be delivered within three days to the town clerk, and within ten days
25 after such meeting, the other shall be delivered [under seal] to the
26 secretary of the state.

27 Section 4 of article fourth of the Constitution is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 Sec. 4. [At the meetings of the electors in the respective towns held
30 quadrennially as herein provided for the election of state officers, the
31 presiding officers shall receive the votes and shall count and declare the
32 same in the presence of the electors] The votes at the election of state
33 officers shall be counted and declared in open meeting by the presiding
34 officers in the several towns. The presiding officers shall make and
35 certify duplicate lists of the persons voted for, and of the number of
36 votes for each. One list shall be delivered within three days to the town
37 clerk, and within ten days after such meeting, the other shall be
38 delivered [under seal] to the secretary of the state. The votes so delivered
39 shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer, secretary,
40 and comptroller, within the month of November. The vote for treasurer
41 shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the secretary and
42 comptroller only; the vote for secretary shall be counted, canvassed and
43 declared by the treasurer and comptroller only; and the vote for
44 comptroller shall be counted, canvassed and declared by the treasurer
45 and secretary only. A fair list of the persons and number of votes given
46 for each, together with the returns of the presiding officers, shall be, by
47 the treasurer, secretary and comptroller, made and laid before the

48 general assembly, then next to be held, on the first day of the session
49 thereof. In the election of governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary,
50 treasurer, comptroller and attorney general, the person found upon the
51 count by the treasurer, secretary and comptroller in the manner herein
52 provided, to be made and announced before December fifteenth of the
53 year of the election, to have received the greatest number of votes for
54 each of such offices, respectively, shall be elected thereto; provided, if
55 the election of any of them shall be contested as provided by statute, and
56 if such a contest shall proceed to final judgment, the person found by
57 the court to have received the greatest number of votes shall be elected.
58 If two or more persons shall be found upon the count of the treasurer,
59 secretary and comptroller to have received an equal and the greatest
60 number of votes for any of said offices, and the election is not contested,
61 the general assembly on the second day of its session shall hold a joint
62 convention of both houses, at which, without debate, a ballot shall be
63 taken to choose such officer from those persons who received such a
64 vote; and the balloting shall continue on that or subsequent days until
65 one of such persons is chosen by a majority vote of those present and
66 voting. The general assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating
67 and prescribing the order and manner of voting for such officers. The
68 general assembly shall by law prescribe the manner in which all
69 questions concerning the election of a governor or lieutenant-governor
70 shall be determined.

71 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
72 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
73 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, and
74 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
75 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020,
76 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
77 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
78 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
79 State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early
80 voting?"