
OLR Bill Analysis

HJ 59

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for in-person, early voting before an election or referendum. It also removes the requirement that a duplicate list of election results for state officers and state legislators, which under the constitution must be sent to the secretary of the state within 10 days after the election, be submitted under seal. (Under the General Statutes, moderators must send a duplicate list of election results to the secretary (1) electronically within 48 hours after the election and (2) under seal within three days after the election (CGS § 9-314).)

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 the General Assembly to provide for early voting?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by a majority of the membership 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.

CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

The state constitution sets the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in specified years as the day of election for legislative and statewide offices. It currently requires election officials to receive and declare votes on this day to elect state legislators and state officers, with one exception. (The exception authorizes the General Assembly to pass a law allowing electors to cast their votes by absentee ballot for

specified reasons (e.g., illness or physical disability).)

If passed, the resolution would authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for in-person, early voting before an election or referendum. To effectuate this, it eliminates the requirement that election officials receive and declare votes on the day of an election for state officers and state legislators.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 4 (03/05/2021)