



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 260**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 35

*Senate, March 28, 2023*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute joint resolution ought to be adopted.

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AS ELECTORS AND TO BE SO ADMITTED UPON ATTAINING THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.**

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 Article thirty-first of the amendments to the Constitution is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 Any citizen who [will have] has attained the age of [eighteen] sixteen  
8 years [on or before the day of a regular election] may apply for  
9 admission as an elector at such times and in such manner as may be  
10 prescribed by law, and, if qualified, shall become an elector on the day  
11 of [his or her] such citizen's eighteenth birthday. Any citizen who has  
12 not yet attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the

13 age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election, who is  
14 otherwise qualified to be an elector and who has applied for admission  
15 as an elector in such manner as may be prescribed by law, may vote in  
16 any primary election, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, held  
17 for such regular election.

18 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the  
19 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly  
20 elected at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and  
21 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented  
22 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024,  
23 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments  
24 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be  
25 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the  
26 State be amended to allow preregistration to vote for citizens who are  
27 sixteen years old, with such citizens becoming fully registered to vote  
28 on their eighteenth birthday?"

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In the prefatory language, reference to "article fourteenth of the amendments to the Constitution" was deleted for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

***GAE***      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

---

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

---

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

This bill has no fiscal impact. There is no direct cost associated with placing the amendment on the ballot as the election will be held on existing election days.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

---

**OLR Bill Analysis****SJ 35****RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AS ELECTORS AND TO BE SO ADMITTED UPON ATTAINING THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.****SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment allowing 16-year-old citizens to apply for admission as electors (i.e., voters), with electoral privileges attaching at age 18 if the person applies for admission in accordance with state law and is otherwise qualified.

Currently under the state constitution, a citizen may apply for admission as an elector if he or she will turn 18 on or before the day of a regular election, with privileges attaching at age 18. By law and under the state constitution, a 17-year-old who has applied and qualified for admission as an elector, and who will turn age 18 on or before the day of a regular election, may vote in the primary for that election. A “regular election” is any municipal or state election.

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 preregistration to vote for citizens who are sixteen years old, with such citizens becoming fully registered to vote on their eighteenth birthday?”

**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 2024 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 2025 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session

by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2026 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.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/15/2023)