

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HJ 2 (LCO 100)

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

SUMMARY:

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to remove restrictions on voting by absentee ballot, thereby allowing the General Assembly to provide by law for electors to vote by absentee ballot if they do not appear at the polling place on Election Day. Currently, Article 6, § 7 of the state constitution provides that electors may vote by absentee ballot only if they are unable to vote on election day because they are out of town, sick, or physically disabled or the tenets of their religion prohibit secular activity on that day.

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 remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots?"

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 2012 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 2013 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2014 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

ABSENTEE VOTING

The state constitution gives the General Assembly authority to regulate absentee voting (Article 6, § 7). In addition to the constitutional reasons for voting by absentee ballot, electors may vote by absentee ballot if they are in active service with the United States armed forces or working at a polling place outside of their voting district during the hours the polls are open (CGS § 9-135).

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