

House of Representatives, April 6, 1998. The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BYSIEWICZ, 100th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the joint resolution ought to be adopted.

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING VOTING WITHOUT APPEARING AT A POLLING PLACE.

1 Resolved by this Assembly:

2 That the following be proposed as an  
3 amendment to the constitution of the state, which,  
4 when approved and adopted in the manner provided  
5 by the constitution, shall, to all intents and  
6 purposes, become a part thereof:

7 Section 7 of article sixth of the  
8 constitution is amended to read as follows:

9 The general assembly may provide by law for  
10 voting in the choice of any officer to be elected  
11 or upon any question to be voted on at an election  
12 by qualified voters of the state WITHOUT APPEARING  
13 IN PERSON AT A POLLING PLACE. [who are unable to  
14 appear at the polling place on the day of election  
15 because of absence from the city or town of which  
16 they are inhabitants or because of sickness or  
17 physical disability or because the tenets of their  
18 religion forbid secular activity.]

19 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed  
20 amendment to the constitution be continued to the  
21 next session of the general assembly elected at  
22 the general election to be held on November 3,

23 1998, and published with the laws passed at the  
24 present session, or be presented to the electors  
25 at the general election to be held on November 3,  
26 1998, whichever the case may be, according to  
27 article sixth of the amendments to the  
28 constitution. The designation of said proposed  
29 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot  
30 labels and absentee ballots at such election shall  
31 be, "Shall the constitution of the state be  
32 amended to authorize voting without appearing in  
33 person at a polling place?"

34 GAE COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 14 NAY 3 JF

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF 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 HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

\* \* \* \* \*

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER HJ 108**

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Cost, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Secretary of the State, Legislative Management

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: It is anticipated that the Secretary of the State will be able to cover the costs associated with printing the explanation of the proposed constitutional amendments and the required posters within anticipated budgetary resources.

Duties of the legislative staff are viewed as part of their regular employment activities, therefore, the passage of this resolution is not expected to have a fiscal impact on Legislative Management.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: Since the materials that are needed for a constitutional amendment are supplied by the State, the passage of this resolution will not have a fiscal impact on municipalities.

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**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

HJ 108

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
CONCERNING VOTING WITHOUT APPEARING AT A POLLING PLACE**

**SUMMARY:** This resolution proposes amending the constitutional provision that gives the General Assembly authority to regulate how and why people can vote without appearing at a polling place. It would delete the three specified circumstances under which such voting can take place, thus broadening the legislature's authority to pass laws for voting without appearing at a polling place.

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 authorize voting without appearing in person at a polling place?"

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house, it will be placed on the ballot in the 1998 general election. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 1999 session of the General Assembly. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the general election ballot in 2000. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

**FURTHER EXPLANATION****Reasons for Voting Other Than At a Polling Place**

The state constitution currently permits the legislature to pass laws to permit those who are unable to appear at the polls to vote because, on the day of an election, (1) they are out of town, (2) they are sick or physically disabled, or (3) the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity. The resolution would permit the General Assembly to permit absentee voting in other circumstances, remove existing conditions for absentee voting, and permit voting other than in person at polling places, using procedures like all-mail

elections, for example.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 14      Nay 3