

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 235

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTERS/VOTING: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to persons eligible to vote

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article I, Section 10(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to limit the authority of the legislature to suspend a person's right to register and vote to when the person is incarcerated for conviction of a felony; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article I, Section 10(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§10. Right to Vote; Disqualification from Seeking or Holding an Elective Office

Section 10.(A) Right to Vote. Every citizen of the state, upon reaching eighteen years of age, shall have the right to register and vote, except that this right may be suspended while a person is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent or is ~~under an order of imprisonment~~ incarcerated for conviction of a felony.

* * *

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 6, 2018.

1 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
2 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
3 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
4 follows:

5 Do you support an amendment to limit the authority of the legislature to
6 suspend the right of a person who has been convicted of a felony to register
7 and vote to while the person is incarcerated for the conviction? (Amends
8 Article I, Section 10(A))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 235 Original

2017 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Limits the authority of the legislature to suspend a person's right to register and vote to when the person is incarcerated for conviction of a felony.

Present constitution provides that the right to register and vote may be suspended while a person is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Present constitution provides that the right to register and vote may additionally be suspended while a person is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides instead that the right to register and vote may be suspended while a person is incarcerated for conviction of a felony.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 6, 2018.

(Amends Const. Art. I, §10(A))