



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Amendment

LCO No. 9888



Offered by:
SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. House Joint Resolution No. 58 File No. 96 Cal. No. 428

**"RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING."**

1 Strike everything after the resolving clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

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

9 Sec. 7. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the
10 choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on
11 at an election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable to] will not

12 appear at the polling place on the day of election. [because of absence
13 from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of
14 sickness or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion
15 forbid secular activity.]

16 Section 4 of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 Sec. 4. Laws shall be made to support the privilege of free suffrage by
19 electors who present state-issued photographic identification prior to
20 voting, prescribing the manner of regulating and conducting meetings
21 of [the] such electors, and prohibiting, under adequate penalties, all
22 undue influence therein, from power, bribery, tumult and other
23 improper conduct.

24 Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding section 21 as
25 follows:

26 Sec. 21. Every citizen shall be entitled to state-issued photographic
27 identification acceptable for voting purposes, which shall be free of
28 charge if such citizen does not possess a state-issued motor vehicle
29 operator's license or state-issued identification card and cannot afford
30 such photographic identification.

31 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
32 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
33 elected at the general election to be held on November 8, 2022, and
34 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
35 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 8, 2022,
36 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
37 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
38 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
39 State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots,
40 permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day
41 of an election and require the presentation of state-issued photographic
42 identification prior to voting in person or by absentee ballot?"