
OLR Bill Analysis

HJ 1

RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to remove the state constitution's current restrictions on absentee voting. Under these restrictions, the General Assembly may pass a law allowing electors to cast their vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of absence from the town where they reside, sickness or physical disability, or the tenets of their religion prohibit secular activity on election day. The General Assembly exercised this authority and passed provisions codified in CGS § 9-135 (see BACKGROUND).

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 permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by a majority of the membership of each house, it will appear on the 2024 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.

BACKGROUND

Related Resolution

SJ 29, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, is identical to this resolution.

Absentee Voting

CGS § 9-135 permits qualified electors to vote by absentee ballot if

they are unable to appear at their polling place on the day of an election, primary, election, or referendum because of the following:

1. they are absent from the town in which they reside;
2. sickness or physical disability;
3. the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity on the day of the primary, election, or referendum;
4. they are in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces; or
5. they are primary, election, or referendum officials outside of their voting district, and their duties will keep them away during all hours of voting.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/15/2023)