
OLR Bill Analysis

HJ 216

RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AS ELECTORS AND TO BE SO ADMITTED UPON ATTAINING THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment allowing 16- and 17-year-old citizens to apply for admission as electors (i.e., voters), with electoral privileges attaching at age 18 if the person applies for admission in accordance with state law and is otherwise qualified.

Currently, under the state constitution, a citizen may apply for admission as an elector if he or she will turn 18 on or before the day of a regular election, with privileges attaching at age 18. By law and under the state constitution, a 17-year-old who has applied and qualified for admission as an elector, and who will turn age 18 on or before the day of a regular election, may vote in the primary for that election. A “regular election” is any municipal or state election.

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 allow any citizen who has attained the age of sixteen years to preregister to be an elector, for the purpose of becoming an elector on such citizen’s eighteenth birthday?”

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 2024 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 2025 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2026 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/22/2024)