

By Representative Livingston

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing the creation of Section 26 of Article I of the State Constitution, to provide for amendment or revision of statutory law by citizen initiative.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the creation of Section 26 of Article I of the State Constitution set forth below is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection at the general election to be held in November 1998:

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 26. Statutory change by citizen initiative.--

(a) The power to propose the revision or amendment of any portion or portions of statutory law by initiative is reserved to the people, provided that any such revision or amendment, except for those limiting the power of government to raise revenue, shall embrace but one subject and matter directly connected therewith. It may be invoked by filing with the secretary of state a petition containing a copy of the proposed revision or amendment, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to five percent of the votes cast in each of such districts respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

(b) A proposed amendment to or revision of statutory law by initiative, or any part of it, shall be submitted to

1 the electors at the next general election held more than
2 ninety days after the initiative petition proposing it has
3 been filed with the secretary of state.

4 (c) Once in the tenth week and once in the sixth week
5 immediately preceding the week of the election at which it
6 shall be submitted to the electors, the proposed amendment or
7 revision, with notice of the date of the election at which it
8 will be submitted to the electors, shall be published in one
9 newspaper of general circulation in each county in which such
10 newspaper is published.

11 (d) If the proposed amendment or revision is approved
12 by a vote of the electors, it shall be effective as an
13 amendment or revision to statutory law on the first Tuesday
14 after the first Monday in January following the election, or
15 on such other date as may be specified in the amendment or
16 revision.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with the
18 requirements of section 101.161, Florida Statutes, the title
19 and substance of the amendment proposed herein shall appear on
20 the ballot as follows:

21 AMENDMENT OR REVISION OF STATUTORY LAW

22 BY CITIZEN INITIATIVE

23 Authorizes citizens to amend or revise statutory law by
24 means of an initiative process similar to that used to amend
25 the State Constitution. Requires the petition, containing
26 signatures of five percent of the voters, based on the last
27 presidential election, in one-half of the congressional
28 districts and the whole state, to be submitted to the
29 Secretary of State more than ninety days before the general
30 election at which the statutory change will be voted on.

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