

HJR 1679

2005

House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VI of the State Constitution, relating to suffrage and elections, to provide for restoration of voting rights to certain persons convicted of felonies whose convictions are subsequently overturned.

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

That the amendment to Section 4 of Article VI 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 2006:

ARTICLE VI

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 4. Disqualifications.--

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil rights or removal of disability, except that the legislature may provide for restoring the right to vote or hold office for a person who has been convicted of a felony and subsequently exonerated after his or her judgment and sentence have become final.

(b) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to any of the following offices:

- (1) Florida representative,
- (2) Florida senator,

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- 29 (3) Florida Lieutenant governor, or
- 30 (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- 31 ~~(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or~~
- 32 ~~(6) U.S. Senator from Florida~~

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34 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will

35 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that

36 office for eight consecutive years.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the title and substance of the

38 amendment proposed herein shall appear on the ballot as follows:

39 RESTORATION OF RIGHTS

40 Proposes an amendment to Section 4 of Article VI of the

41 State Constitution to allow the Legislature to restore the

42 rights to vote and to hold office of a person convicted of a

43 felony who is subsequently exonerated of the offense. The

44 amendment also deletes inoperative provisions relating to term

45 limits for members of Congress and U.S. Senators, which

46 provisions have been determined by the U.S. Supreme Court to

47 violate the U.S. Constitution.