

By Senator Soto

14-00943-13

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article IV of the State Constitution to remove the Governor's constitutional authority to fill a vacancy in an appointed or elected county office.

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

That the following amendment to Section 1 of Article IV of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE

SECTION 1. Governor.—

(a) The supreme executive power shall be vested in a governor, who shall be commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the state and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The governor may require information in writing from all executive or administrative state, county or municipal officers upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices. The governor shall be the chief administrative officer of the state responsible for the planning and budgeting for the state.

(b) The governor may initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state against any executive or administrative state,

14-00943-13

2013638

30 county or municipal officer to enforce compliance with any duty
31 or restrain any unauthorized act.

32 (c) The governor may request in writing the opinion of the
33 justices of the supreme court as to the interpretation of any
34 portion of this constitution upon any question affecting the
35 governor's executive powers and duties. The justices shall,
36 subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons
37 to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their
38 written opinion not earlier than ten days from the filing and
39 docketing of the request, unless in their judgment the delay
40 would cause public injury.

41 (d) The governor shall have power to call out the militia
42 to preserve the public peace, execute the laws of the state,
43 suppress insurrection, or repel invasion.

44 (e) The governor shall by message at least once in each
45 regular session inform the legislature concerning the condition
46 of the state, propose such reorganization of the executive
47 department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommend
48 measures in the public interest.

49 (f) When not otherwise provided for in this constitution,
50 the governor shall fill by appointment any vacancy in state ~~or~~
51 ~~county~~ office for the remainder of the term of an appointive
52 office, and for the remainder of the term of an elective office
53 if less than twenty-eight months, otherwise until the first
54 Tuesday after the first Monday following the next general
55 election.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
57 placed on the ballot:

58 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

14-00943-13

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ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1

REMOVING THE GOVERNOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO FILL A VACANCY IN A COUNTY OFFICE.—The State Constitution currently authorizes the Governor to fill by appointment any vacancy in a county office for the remainder of the term of an appointive office and for the remainder of the term of an elective office if less than 28 months remain in the term. This proposed amendment removes that authority from the Governor as a constitutional power, which would allow a vacancy in a county office to be filled as otherwise provided by law.