

By Senator Powell

30-01556-17

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article VI of the State Constitution to automatically restore the voting rights of convicted felons after a specified time.

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

That the following amendment to Section 4 of Article VI 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 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. However, a person convicted of a felony shall be automatically qualified to vote three years after the person completes his or her sentence.

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

- (1) Florida representative,
- (2) Florida senator,
- (3) Florida lieutenant governor,
- (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or

30-01556-17

20171266__

30 (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

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32 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
33 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that
34 office for eight consecutive years.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
37 placed on the ballot:

38 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

39 ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

40 AUTOMATIC RESTORATION OF FELONS' VOTING RIGHTS.—Proposing
41 an amendment to the State Constitution to automatically restore
42 the voting rights of a person convicted of a felony 3 years
43 after the person completes his or her sentence.