

By Senator Thurston

33-00781-21

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 15 of Article III of the State Constitution to require a legislator to be an elector and resident of the district in which he or she is seeking election at the time of qualifying for nomination or election to office.

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

That the following amendment to Section 15 of Article III 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 III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.-

(a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for terms of four years, those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms.

(b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of representatives shall be elected for terms of two years in each even-numbered year.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least

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30 twenty-one years of age, shall be an elector and resident of the  
31 district in which he or she is seeking election at the time of  
32 qualifying for nomination or election to office, ~~from which~~  
33 ~~elected~~ and shall have resided in the state for a period of two  
34 years prior to election.

35 (d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the legislature  
36 shall take office upon election. Vacancies in legislative office  
37 shall be filled only by election as provided by law.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
39 placed on the ballot:

40 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

41 ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

42 QUALIFICATIONS OF LEGISLATORS.—Proposing an amendment to  
43 the State Constitution to require that a legislator be an  
44 elector and resident of the district in which he or she is  
45 seeking election at the time of qualifying for nomination or  
46 election to office, rather than upon election to such office.