

House Resolution 516

By: Representatives Holland of the 157th, Hudson of the 156th and Royal of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the General Assembly shall
 2 be authorized to condition the effectiveness of any general Act upon the approval by the
 3 electors of the state voting in a referendum; to provide for procedures; to provide for the
 4 preparation and publication of a summary; to provide for a referendum on such Act; to
 5 provide for an effective date of any such Act; to provide for the submission of this
 6 amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article III, Section V of the Constitution is amended by inserting at the end thereof a new
 10 paragraph to read as follows:

11 "Paragraph XV. *Submission of general Acts for approval by the electorate.* (a) The
 12 General Assembly is authorized by two-thirds of the members to which each house is
 13 entitled in a roll-call vote entered on their respective journals to condition the effectiveness
 14 of any general Act upon the approval of the electors of the entire state voting in a
 15 referendum held at the next general election which is held in the even-numbered years. A
 16 summary of such Act shall be prepared by the Legislative Counsel and shall be published
 17 in the official organ of each county. Such summary shall be published once each week for
 18 two consecutive weeks immediately preceding the day of the general election at which such
 19 Act is to be submitted. The language to be used in submitting a proposed amendment or
 20 a new Constitution shall be in such words as the General Assembly may provide in the Act.
 21 A copy of the entire Act shall be filed in the office of the judge of the probate court of each
 22 county and shall be available for public inspection; and the summary of the Act shall so
 23 indicate. The General Assembly is hereby authorized to provide by law for additional
 24 matters relative to the publication and distribution of proposed Acts and summaries not in
 25 conflict with the provisions of this Paragraph.

26 (b) If an Act is approved by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the
 27 General Assembly voting thereon in such general election, such Act shall become effective

1 as provided in the Act or, if the Act contains no such provision, on January 1 of the year
2 following the year in which the Act was so approved. When more than one Act is
3 submitted at the same time, they shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on
4 each Act separately."

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
7 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
8 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

9 "() YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to authorize the General Assembly
10 to condition the effectiveness of a general Act upon the approval of the
11 () NO majority of the electors voting on the question in a state-wide referendum?

12 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

13 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
14 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
15 become a part of the Constitution of this state.