

House Resolution 355

By: Representatives Forster of the 3rd, Post 1, Williams of the 128th, Howell of the 92nd, Stephens of the 124th, Post 2, Williams of the 61st, Post 2, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that persons elected to office
 2 who were the nominees of political parties and bodies may not change their party affiliation
 3 except under certain circumstances; to provide for the vacation of the person's office under
 4 certain circumstances; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or
 5 rejection; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article II, Section II of the Constitution is amended by adding a new Paragraph VI to read
 9 as follows:

10 "Paragraph VI. *Change of Political Party or Body by Elected Officials During Term of*
 11 *Office.* (a) A person who is nominated to a state, county, or municipal office in this state
 12 by a political party or body and who subsequently is elected to such office shall not change
 13 his or her political party or body membership or affiliation during the term of such office
 14 without first resigning from such office; provided, however, that such person may qualify
 15 for nomination by a different political party for the office he or she then holds or for a
 16 different office or may be the nominee of a different political party or body for reelection
 17 to the office he or she then holds or for a different office without being required first to
 18 resign from the office such person then holds.

19 (b) The state, county, or municipal office of a person who changes his or her political
 20 party membership without first resigning as required by this Paragraph shall be declared
 21 vacant by operation of law upon such person changing his or her political party
 22 membership or affiliation and such office shall be filled as provided by law."

23 **SECTION 2.**

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

1 " YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to provide that state, county, and
2 municipal elected officials may not change their political party or body
3 NO membership or affiliation during their terms of office without first resigning
 from office except under certain circumstances?"

4 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
5 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
6 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
7 become a part of the Constitution of this state.