

House Resolution 162

By: Representatives Thomas of the 100th, Floyd of the 99th, Buckner of the 137th, Evans of the 42nd, and Marin of the 96th

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the ballot language shall
 2 be provided by the Attorney General; to provide that the ballot language shall summarize the
 3 proposed constitutional amendment accurately and objectively and contain no subjective
 4 opinion of the merits of the proposed amendment; to provide for related matters; to provide
 5 for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 SECTION 1.

8 Article X, Section I of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph II as follows:

9 "Paragraph II. *Proposals by the General Assembly; submission to the people.* (a) A
 10 proposal by the General Assembly to amend this Constitution or to provide for a new
 11 Constitution shall originate as a resolution in either the Senate or the House of
 12 Representatives and, if approved by two-thirds of the members to which each house is
 13 entitled in a roll-call vote entered on their respective journals, shall be submitted to the
 14 electors of the entire state at the next general election which is held in the even-numbered
 15 years. A summary of such proposal shall be prepared by the Attorney General, the
 16 Legislative Counsel, and the Secretary of State and shall be published in the official organ
 17 of each county and, if deemed advisable by the 'Constitutional Amendments Publication
 18 Board,' in not more than 20 other newspapers in the state designated by such board which
 19 meet the qualifications for being selected as the official organ of a county. Said board shall
 20 be composed of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of
 21 Representatives. Such summary shall be published once each week for three consecutive
 22 weeks immediately preceding the day of the general election at which such proposal is to
 23 be submitted. The language to be used in submitting a proposed amendment or a new
 24 Constitution shall be in such words as ~~the General Assembly may provide in the resolution~~
 25 ~~or, in the absence thereof, in such language as the Governor may prescribe~~ provided by the
 26 Attorney General. Such language shall accurately summarize the proposed amendment in
 27 the most objective and brief terms possible and shall contain no subjective opinion of the

28 merits of the proposed amendment. A copy of the entire proposed amendment or of a new
 29 Constitution shall be filed in the office of the judge of the probate court of each county and
 30 shall be available for public inspection; and the summary of the proposal shall so indicate.
 31 The General Assembly is hereby authorized to provide by law for additional matters
 32 relative to the publication and distribution of proposed amendments and summaries not in
 33 conflict with the provisions of this Paragraph.

34 (b) If such proposal is ratified by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members
 35 of the General Assembly voting thereon in such general election, such proposal shall
 36 become a part of this Constitution or shall become a new Constitution, as the case may be.
 37 Any proposal so approved shall take effect as provided in Paragraph VI of this article.
 38 When more than one amendment is submitted at the same time, they shall be so submitted
 39 as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment separately, provided that one or more
 40 new articles or related changes in one or more articles may be submitted as a single
 41 amendment."

42 **SECTION 2.**

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

46 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that
 47 constitutional ballot language shall be provided by the Attorney General and
 48 () NO such language shall summarize the proposed constitutional amendment
 49 accurately, objectively, and briefly and shall contain no subjective opinion
 50 as to the merits of the proposed amendment?"

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