

Senate Resolution 71

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th, Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to require that summaries of proposed
 2 constitutional amendments which have been adopted by the General Assembly and will be
 3 submitted to the voters for ratification be drafted by an independent body appointed by the
 4 deans of the University of Georgia School of Law and the Georgia State University College
 5 of Law and by the Supreme Court of Georgia; to provide for submission of this amendment
 6 for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "Paragraph II. *Proposals by the General Assembly; submission to the people.* A
 11 proposal by the General Assembly to amend this Constitution or to provide for a new
 12 Constitution shall originate as a resolution in either the Senate or the House of
 13 Representatives and, if approved by two-thirds of the members to which each house is
 14 entitled in a roll-call vote entered on their respective journals, shall be submitted to the
 15 electors of the entire state at the next general election which is held in the even-numbered
 16 years. A summary of such proposal shall be prepared by ~~the Attorney General, the~~
 17 ~~Legislative Counsel, and the Secretary of State~~ a seven-member proposal summary
 18 committee consisting of two appointees of the dean of the University of Georgia School
 19 of Law, two appointees of the dean of the Georgia State University College of Law, and
 20 three appointees of the Supreme Court of Georgia and shall be published in the official
 21 organ of each county and, if deemed advisable by the 'Constitutional Amendments
 22 Publication Board,' in not more than 20 other newspapers in the state designated by such
 23 board which meet the qualifications for being selected as the official organ of a county.
 24 Said board shall be composed of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker
 25 of the House of Representatives. Such summary shall be published once each week for
 26 three consecutive weeks immediately preceding the day of the general election at which
 27 such proposal is to be submitted. The language to be used in submitting a proposed

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

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

44 **SECTION 2.**

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

48 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to require that summaries
 49 of proposed constitutional amendments which have been adopted by the
 50 () NO General Assembly and will be submitted to the voters for ratification be
 51 drafted by an independent body appointed by the deans of the University of
 52 Georgia School of Law and the Georgia State University College of Law and
 53 by the Supreme Court of Georgia?"

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