

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO AND SENATOR MIZELL

VOTERS/VOTING: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to the right to vote

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article I, Section 10(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to right to vote; to provide for voter qualifications; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article I, Section 10(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§10. Right to Vote; Disqualification from Seeking or Holding an Elective Office

Section 10.(A)(1) Right to Vote. Every citizen of the state and the United States, upon reaching eighteen years of age, shall have the right to register and vote, except that this right may be suspended ~~while~~ for a person who is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent or who is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

(2) No governing authority of a political subdivision as defined in Article VI, Section 44 of this constitution may change the qualifications to vote as provided in Subparagraph (A)(1) of this Section.

\* \* \*

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
 2 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,  
 3 2022.

4 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
 5 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
 6 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
 7 follows:

8 Do you support an amendment to guarantee the right to vote to citizens of the  
 9 United States and to prohibit local governing authorities from changing the  
 10 qualifications to vote? (Amends Article I, Section 10(A))

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 178 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Villio

**Abstract:** Provides relative to voting qualifications.

Present law provides that every citizen of the state has the right to register and vote upon reaching 18 years of age with certain exceptions.

Proposed law retains present law and expressly limits the right to vote to U.S. citizens. Further provides that no local governing authority may change such qualifications.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2022.

(Amends Const. Art. I, §10(A))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Amend ballot language.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes to the ballot language.