

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVES JORDAN AND KNOX

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CONSTITUTION/AMENDMENT: (Constitutional Amendment) Prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

To amend Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude; to provide for an exception; 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 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§3. Right to Individual Dignity

Section 3. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. No law shall discriminate against a person because of race or religious ideas, beliefs, or affiliations. No law shall arbitrarily, capriciously, or unreasonably discriminate against a person because of birth, age, sex, culture, physical condition, or political ideas or affiliations. Slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited, ~~except in the latter case as punishment for crime.~~ The prohibition of involuntary servitude shall not prohibit an inmate from being required to work when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 14, 2023.

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

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

5 Do you support an amendment to prohibit involuntary servitude while not
 6 prohibiting an inmate from being required to work when the inmate has been
 7 duly convicted of a crime? (Amends Article 1, Section 3)

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 211 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Jordan

Abstract: Prohibits the use of slavery and involuntary servitude but provides that the prohibition of involuntary servitude shall not prohibit work requirements for duly convicted inmates.

Present constitution provides that slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited, except in the case of involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes the exception allowing for the use of involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the prohibition of involuntary servitude shall not prohibit an inmate from being required to work when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 14, 2023.

(Amends Const. Art. I, §3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide that the prohibition of involuntary servitude shall not prohibit an inmate from being required to work.
2. Change ballot language.
3. Make technical changes.