



1        other state or of the United States or of any foreign government or country of a crime  
2        which, if committed in this state, would be a felony and who has exhausted all legal  
3        remedies and has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state  
4        or by the officer of the state, nation, government, or country having such authority  
5        to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.

6                (2) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a  
7        felony.

8                (C) Exception. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (B) of this  
9        Section, a person who desires to qualify as a candidate for or hold an elective office,  
10       who has been convicted of a felony and who has served his sentence, but has not  
11       been pardoned for such felony, shall be permitted to qualify as a candidate for or  
12       hold such office if the date of his qualifying for such office is more than fifteen years  
13       after the date of the completion of his original sentence.

14       Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
15 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,  
16 2016.

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

21                Do you support an amendment to prohibit a person convicted of a felony  
22                from qualifying for election to public office and from taking or being  
23                appointed to public office within fifteen years of the completion of his  
24                sentence unless he is pardoned? (Amends Article I, Section 10)

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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)]

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HB 274 Original

2016 Regular Session

Bishop

**Abstract:** Prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from qualifying for or taking public elective office or appointment of honor, trust, or profit in this state. Provides certain exceptions for persons pardoned by appropriate officer and persons for whom more than 15 years have passed after completion of sentence.

Present constitution provides that the right to register and vote may be suspended while a person is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent or under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and further prohibits the following from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office or taking public elective office or appointment of honor, trust, or profit in this state:

- (1) A person who has been convicted within this state of a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies, or who has been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the U.S. or of any foreign government or country of a crime which, if committed in this state, would be a felony and who has exhausted all legal remedies and has not afterwards been pardoned either by the governor of this state or by the officer of the state, nation, government, or country having such authority to pardon in the place where the person was convicted and sentenced.
- (2) A person actually under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

Proposed constitutional amendment further authorizes a person to qualify as a candidate for or hold elective office if the date of qualifying for such office is more than 15 years after the date of the completion of his original sentence.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2016.

(Amends Const. Art. I, §10)