

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 298

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

CONSTITUTION/AMENDMENT: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to involuntary servitude and the administration of criminal justice

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION

2 To amend Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the prohibition of  
3 slavery and involuntary servitude; to provide relative to the administration of  
4 criminal justice; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the  
5 electors; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members  
8 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of  
9 Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to  
10 amend Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

11 §3. Right to Individual Dignity

12 Section 3. (A) No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws.  
13 No law shall discriminate against a person because of race or religious ideas, beliefs,  
14 or affiliations. No law shall arbitrarily, capriciously, or unreasonably discriminate  
15 against a person because of birth, age, sex, culture, physical condition, or political  
16 ideas or affiliations.

17 (B)(1) Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited, ~~except in the latter~~  
18 ~~case as punishment for crime.~~

19 (2) Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph does not apply to the otherwise  
20 lawful administration of criminal justice.

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 prohibit the use of involuntary servitude  
9 except as it applies to the otherwise lawful administration of criminal justice?

10 (Amends Article I, Section 3)

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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 298 Engrossed

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Jordan

**Abstract:** Prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude except for the lawful administration of criminal justice.

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 changes present law to provide that slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited except for the otherwise lawful administration of criminal justice.

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

(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 slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited except for the administration of criminal justice.
2. Change ballot language.
3. Make technical changes.