

Regular Session, 1999

HOUSE BILL NO. 657

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEWITT

ELECTIONS/INITIATIVE-REF: (Constitutional Amendment) Authorizes
the electorate to adopt or reject laws by referendum

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION

2 Proposing to amend Article III, Section 1(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana,
3 relative to the exercise of legislative power; to provide that the
4 electorate may adopt or reject certain laws by referendum; to provide
5 for a limitation on the number of referenda during a certain time period;
6 to provide for the powers of the legislature relative thereto; to provide
7 for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to
8 provide for related matters.

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

14 §1. Legislative Power; Composition of the Legislature; Continuous
15 Body

16 Section 1.(A)(1) Legislative Power of State. The legislative
17 power of the state is vested in a legislature, consisting of a Senate and

1 a House of Representatives, subject to the power reserved to the people
2 to approve or reject any law which is proposed by the legislature as a
3 public referendum. Any such referendum proposed pursuant to this
4 Section may be effected only as to the enactment of a new law
5 proposed by the legislature by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of
6 the elected members of each house after the effective date of this
7 Section. No more than two public referenda shall be submitted by the
8 legislature to the electors of this state during a calendar year. However,
9 any measure enacted by the legislature which proposes a referendum
10 pursuant to this Section may only be placed on a ballot during a
11 regularly scheduled statewide election. The legislature shall provide by
12 law for the procedure, form, and manner by which the people may
13 exercise the rights reserved to them in this Paragraph.

14 (2) The Senate shall be composed of one senator elected from
15 each senatorial district. The House of Representatives shall be
16 composed of one representative elected from each representative
17 district.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be
20 submitted to the electors of the state at the gubernatorial primary election to
21 be held in 1999.

22 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used
23 at the election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of
24 the state shall be permitted to vote FOR or AGAINST, to amend the
25 Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

1 To authorize the electorate of Louisiana to adopt or reject laws
2 by referendum; to provide that only the enactment of a new law
3 maybe proposed by a two-thirds vote of the legislature as a
4 referendum; to limit the number of public referenda submitted
5 by the legislature to no more than two in a calendar year; and to
6 authorize the legislature to provide procedures for implementing
7 the use of referendum. (Amends Article III, Section 1(A))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

DeWitt

HB No. 657

Present constitution provides that the legislative power of the state is vested in the legislature, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitutional provisions except that it provides that the legislative power of the state shall be subject to the power reserved to the people to approve or reject any law which is proposed by the legislature as a public referendum. Additionally provides that such referendum maybe effected only as to the enactment of a new law proposed as such by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house after the effective date of the proposed constitutional amendment.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that no more than two public referenda be submitted to the electors of this state by the legislature in a calendar year and may only be placed on a ballot during a regularly scheduled statewide election.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the legislature shall provide by law for the procedure, form, and manner by which the people may exercise the rights reserved to them to approve or reject laws.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the gubernatorial primary election in 1999.

(Amends Const. Art. III, Section 1(A))