

000966432

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 252

Offered January 24, 2000

Proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to the qualifications of voters.

Patrons—Hanger and Puller; Delegate: Melvin

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, a majority of the members elected to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be, and the same hereby is, proposed and referred to the General Assembly at its first regular session held after the next general election of members of the House of Delegates for its concurrence in conformity with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution of Virginia, namely:

Amend Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

ARTICLE II

FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in this section, and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be qualified to vote unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority *or by law as authorized herein. The General Assembly may provide by law, or establish a process by law, for the restoration of civil rights to any person who has been convicted of a felony and who has completed service of his sentence and any modification of his sentence including probation, parole, and suspension of sentence. The General Assembly, also, may provide by law for additional conditions or limitations on such restoration of civil rights. As prescribed by law, no* No person adjudicated to be mentally incompetent shall be qualified to vote until his competency has been reestablished *as prescribed by law.*

The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice-President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

INTRODUCED

SJ252