

ARTICLE XVIII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Section 1: Proposal of Amendments. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by constitutional convention, legislative initiative or popular initiative.

Section 2: Constitutional Convention.

a) The legislature, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of each house, may submit to the voters the question, "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" The legislature or the governor in the event the legislature fails to act shall submit this question to the voters at a regular general election no later than seven years after the effective date of this Constitution and as provided by law. An act of the legislature under this subsection may not be vetoed by the governor.

b) An initiative petition may submit to the voters the question, "Shall there be a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution?" The petition shall be signed by at least twenty-five percent of the persons qualified to vote in the Commonwealth or by at least seventy-five percent of the persons qualified to vote in a senatorial district. An initiative petition shall be filed with the attorney general for certification that the requirements of this subsection have been met. An initiative petition certified by the attorney general shall be submitted to the voters at the next regular general election that is held at least thirty days from the date the petition has been certified.

c) If two-thirds of the votes cast are affirmative on the question of holding a convention, the legislature shall convene a convention promptly.

d) The number of delegates to the convention shall be equal to the number of members of the larger house of the legislature. The delegates to the convention shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Section 3: Legislative Initiative. The legislature by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting may propose amendments to this Constitution. A proposed amendment may not embrace the subject matter of more than one article of this Constitution. An act of the legislature under this section may not be vetoed by the governor.

Section 4: Popular Initiative.

a) The people may propose constitutional amendments by initiative. An initiative petition shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment. The petition shall be signed by at least fifty percent of the persons qualified to vote in the Commonwealth and at least twenty-five percent of the persons qualified to vote in each senatorial district. A petition shall be filed with the attorney general for certification that the requirements of this subsection have been met.

b) An initiative petition certified by the attorney general shall be submitted to each house of the legislature. If the proposal is approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of each house of the legislature, the proposed amendment shall be submitted for ratification in the same manner as an amendment proposed by legislative initiative. The proposed amendment

shall be submitted for ratification to the voters at the next regular general election with or without legislative approval.

Section 5: Ratification of Amendments.

a) A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted to the voters for ratification at the next regular general election that is held at least sixty days after the amendment is proposed.

b) An amendment proposed by legislative initiative shall become effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast. An amendment proposed by constitutional convention or by popular initiative shall become effective if approved by a majority of the votes cast and at least two-thirds of the votes cast in each of two senatorial districts.