



HOUSE BILL 44: Const. Amendment/Repeal Literacy Test.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 1, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Alexander, Saine, T. Brown, Stevens	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H44-CSSAy-1		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 44 would amend the North Carolina Constitution to repeal the literacy test and place that repeal on the ballot in the 2024 general election.*

CURRENT LAW:

Section 4 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution provides as follows:

Sec. 4. Qualification for registration.

Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language.

In 1971, this provision of the North Carolina Constitution was denied preclearance by the US Department of Justice pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would repeal Section 4 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution.

Sections 2-4 would direct that a constitutional amendment repealing Section 4 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution be submitted to the voters of the State at the general election in November 2024. If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the amendment, the act directs the State Board to certify and the Secretary of State to enroll the amendment.

If approved, the amendment would become effective upon certification by the State Board of Elections.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law, and the amendment would become effective upon certification by the State Board of Elections.

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