

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 810

Short Title: Constitutional Amendment Referenda. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Wood; K. Williams and Gorman.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 31, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REFERENDA
2 BE HELD ONLY AT THE DATE OF THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION
3 IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Article XIII of the North Carolina Constitution
7 reads as rewritten:

8 "**Sec. 4. Revision or amendment by legislative initiation.**

9 A proposal of a new or revised Constitution or an amendment or amendments to this
10 Constitution may be initiated by the General Assembly, but only if three-fifths of all the
11 members of each house shall adopt an act submitting the proposal to the qualified voters
12 of the State for their ratification or rejection. The proposal shall be submitted only at the
13 ~~time~~ date of a statewide general election held for members of the General Assembly and
14 in the manner prescribed by the General Assembly. If a majority of the votes cast
15 thereon are in favor of the proposed new or revised Constitution or constitutional
16 amendment or amendments, it or they shall become effective January first next after
17 ratification by the voters unless a different effective date is prescribed in the act
18 submitting the proposal or proposals to the qualified voters."

19 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be
20 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election for
21 members of the General Assembly in November of 2004, which election shall be
22 conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems,
23 or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The
24 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

25 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

26 Constitutional amendment providing that constitutional amendments may
27 only be voted on by the people at the statewide general election for members of the
28 General Assembly in even-numbered years."

1 **SECTION 3.** If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the
2 amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the
3 amendment to the Secretary of State whereupon the amendment shall become effective.
4 The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the permanent
5 records of that office.

6 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.