



SPONSOR: Sen. Richardson & Rep. Dukes
Sens. Lawson, Pettyjohn, Sokola, Wilson; Rep.
Briggs King

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 294

AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V OF THE DELAWARE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE (Two-thirds of all members elected to each house thereof concurring therein):

1 Section 1. Amend § 2, Article V of the Delaware Constitution by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 Section 2.

4 Every citizen of this State of the age of ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years or older who shall have been a resident thereof
5 one year next preceding an election, and for the last three months a resident of the county, and for the last thirty days a
6 resident of the hundred or election district in which he or she may offer to vote, and in which he or she shall have been duly
7 registered as hereinafter provided for, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the hundred or election district of which he
8 or she shall at the time be a resident, and in which he or she shall be registered, for all officers that now are or hereafter may
9 be elected by the people and upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people; provided, however, that
10 no person who shall attain the age of ~~twenty-one~~ eighteen years after the first day of January in the year of our Lord,
11 nineteen hundred, or after that date shall become a citizen of the United States, shall have the right to vote unless he or she
12 shall be able to read this Constitution in the English language and write his or her name; but these reequipments shall not
13 apply to any person who by reason of physical disability shall be unable to comply therewith; and provide also, that no
14 person in the military, navel, or marine service of the United States shall be considered as a acquiring a residence in this
15 State, by being stationed in any garrison, barrack, or military or navel place or station within this State; and no person
16 adjudged mentally incompetent or person convicted of a crime deemed by law felony, or incapacitated under the provisions
17 of this Constitution from voting, shall enjoy the right of an elector; and the General Assembly may impose the forfeiture of
18 the right of suffrage as a punishment for crime. Any person who is disqualified as a voter because of a conviction of a crime
19 deemed by law a felony shall have such disqualifications removed upon being pardoned, or after the expiration of the
20 sentence, whichever may first occur. The term "sentence" as used in this Section shall include all periods of modification
21 of a sentence, such as, but not limited to, probation, parole and suspension. The provision of this paragraph shall not apply

22 to (1) those persons who were convicted of any felony of murder or manslaughter, (except vehicular homicide); or (2) those
23 persons who were convicted of any felony constituting an offense against public administration involving bribery or
24 improper influence or abuse of office, or any like offence under the laws of any state or local jurisdiction, or of the United
25 States, or of the District of Columbia; or (3) those person who were convicted of any felony constituting a sexual offence,
26 or any like offence under the laws of any state or local jurisdiction or of the United States of the District of Columbia.

SYNOPSIS

This Act is the first leg of a constitutional amendment that would update the minimum voting age in the Delaware Constitution from twenty-one years to eighteen years.

Author: Senator Richardson