

1 SB119
2 172844-3
3 By Senators Pittman and Hightower (Constitutional Amendment)
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill proposes an amendment to the
9 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that
10 commencing January 1, 2018, the legislative
11 authority of the state shall be vested in a
12 unicameral legislature consisting of one chamber
13 known as the Alabama Unicameral Legislature.

14 This amendment would provide for the
15 establishment of districts, initial and subsequent
16 terms of office, vacancies, qualifications, and
17 presiding officers.

18 This amendment would authorize the current
19 Legislature, by general law, to provide for the
20 election, operation, and functioning of the Alabama
21 Unicameral Legislature.

22 This amendment would also abolish the office
23 of Lieutenant Governor and would provide that the
24 State Treasurer would be first in the line of
25 succession to the office of Governor in the event
26 of a vacancy.
27

1 A BILL
2 TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT
4

5 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
6 Alabama of 1901, to provide that commencing January 1, 2018,
7 the legislative authority of the state shall be vested in a
8 unicameral legislature consisting of one chamber known as the
9 Alabama Unicameral Legislature; to provide for the
10 establishment of districts, initial and subsequent terms of
11 office, vacancies, qualifications, presiding officers, and
12 transitional authority and action; to abolish the office of
13 Lieutenant Governor; and to provide that the State Treasurer
14 is first in the line of succession to the office of Governor
15 in the event of a vacancy.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. The following amendment to the
18 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and
19 shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a
20 majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in
21 accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution
22 of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

23 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

24 (a) The day after the General Election in 2018, the
25 legislative authority of the state shall be vested in a
26 unicameral legislature consisting of one chamber to be known
27 as the Alabama Unicameral Legislature.

1 (b) (1) The Alabama Unicameral Legislature shall
2 consist of 105 members elected from the 105 House of
3 Representative districts in existence on January 1, 2016.

4 (2) Members of the Alabama Unicameral Legislature
5 shall be at least 21 years of age at the time of election and
6 shall satisfy the same qualifications required of members of
7 the Legislature as constituted on the date of ratification of
8 this amendment.

9 (3) Members of the Alabama Unicameral Legislature
10 shall be elected at the same time, in the same manner, and
11 serve for the same terms as members of the Legislature as
12 constituted on the date of ratification of this amendment.

13 (4) Vacancies in office of a member of the Alabama
14 Unicameral Legislature shall be filled in the same manner as
15 provided for members of the Legislature as constituted on the
16 date of ratification of this amendment.

17 (c) (1) The Alabama Unicameral Legislature, at the
18 beginning of each regular session, and at such other times as
19 may be necessary, shall elect one of its members Speaker and
20 one of its members Speaker Pro Tempore. The Speaker shall
21 preside over deliberations of the body and shall have no right
22 to vote except in the event of a tie. The Speaker Pro Tempore
23 shall preside over deliberations of the body in the absence of
24 the Speaker.

25 (2) The Speaker and the Speaker Pro Tempore shall
26 hold office until a successor is elected and qualified.

1 (3) The Alabama Unicameral Legislature shall choose
2 its own officers and judge the election, returns, and
3 qualifications of its members.

4 (4) A three-fifths vote of the membership of the
5 Alabama Unicameral Legislature shall be necessary to override
6 the veto of the Governor.

7 (d) The Legislature, as constituted before the
8 General Election in 2018, by general law or proposed
9 constitutional amendment, shall provide further for the
10 implementation of this amendment and for the election,
11 operation, and functioning of the Alabama Unicameral
12 Legislature as constituted after the General Election in 2018.

13 (e) The office of Lieutenant Governor shall be
14 abolished on the day after the General Election in 2018. On
15 and after that date, the State Treasurer shall be first in
16 line to succeed to the office of Governor in the event of the
17 removal from office, death, or resignation of the Governor.

18 (f) (1) Other provisions of this constitution shall
19 be read in pari materia with this amendment when possible.

20 (2) Reference to the Legislature, Senate, House of
21 Representatives, or House in this constitution or other law,
22 commencing on the day after the General Election in 2018,
23 shall mean the Alabama Unicameral Legislature as constituted
24 on that date when applicable.

25 (3) If any other provision of this constitution is
26 in conflict with this amendment, this amendment is
27 controlling.

1 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment
2 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
3 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284
4 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of
5 Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this
6 state.

7 Section 3. The appropriate election official shall
8 assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional
9 amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the
10 following description of the substance or subject matter of
11 the proposed constitutional amendment:

12 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
13 Alabama of 1901, to specify that beginning the day after the
14 General Election in 2018, the legislative authority of the
15 state shall be vested in a unicameral legislature consisting
16 of one chamber known as the Alabama Unicameral Legislature, to
17 abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor, to provide that the
18 State Treasurer is first in line to succeed to the office of
19 Governor in the event of a vacancy in the office, and to
20 provide transitional authority and action.

21 "Proposed by Act _____."

22 This description shall be followed by the following
23 language:

24 "Yes () No ()."