SB40

N4R488J-1

By Senator Singleton (Constitutional Amendment)

RFD: Judiciary

First Read: 06-Feb-24

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing constitutional provisions, all judges must be elected by vote of the electors within the territorial jurisdiction of their respective courts.

This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide for the election of associate justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the appellate courts by districts.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Proposing an amendment to Section 152 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide for the election of associate justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the courts of appeals by district.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, is proposed:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

"Section 152

(a)~~All~~ Except as provided in subsection (b), judges

shall be elected by vote of the electors within the territorial jurisdiction of their respective courts.

(b) Commencing with the 2026 General Election, associate justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the courts of appeals shall be elected by districts as determined by the Legislature."

Upon ratification of this constitutional amendment, the Code Commissioner shall number and place this amendment as appropriate in the constitution omitting this instructional paragraph and may make the following nonsubstantive revisions: change capitalization, hierarchy, spelling, and punctuation for purposes of style and uniformity; correct manifest grammatical, clerical, and typographical errors; revise internal or external citations and cross-references; and translate effective dates.

END OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of this state. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the following description of the substance or subject matter of the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to amend Section 152, to provide for the election of associate justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the courts of appeals by district.

Proposed by Act ____."

This description shall be followed by the following language:

"Yes ( ) No( )."

Section 3. The proposed amendment shall become valid as a part of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon.