

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, DISAPPROVED

CHAPTER 779

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARTICLE CHANGES

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3003, chapter 710, 1985 Session Laws, proposed by the Forty-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota, to create a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota, relating to the executive branch of government, to the election, qualification, and compensation of executive officials, to the powers and duties of the governor, and to gubernatorial succession; to repeal the present article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota, relating to the executive branch of government, to the election, qualification, and compensation of executive officials, to the powers and duties of the governor, and to gubernatorial succession; and to provide an effective date.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This measure creates a new executive branch article for the constitution that retains all the current elected state officials. The amendment provides for the election, qualification, and compensation of executive officials, for the powers and duties of the governor, and for gubernatorial succession. The amendment also repeals the present article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota, and provides that these changes will take effect on July 1, 1987.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the following proposed creation of a new article V and the following proposed repeal of the present article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota are agreed to and shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State of North Dakota at the primary election to be held in 1986, in accordance with the provisions of section 45 of article IV of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota.

SECTION 1. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The qualified electors of the state at the times and places of choosing members of the legislative assembly shall choose a governor, lieutenant governor, agriculture commissioner, attorney general, auditor, insurance commissioner, three public service commissioners, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, tax commissioner, and treasurer. The legislative assembly may by law provide for a department of labor to be administered by a public official who may be either elected or appointed.

The tax commissioner must be elected on a no-party ballot and must be nominated and elected in the manner now provided for the nomination and election of the superintendent of public instruction.

The powers and duties of the agriculture commissioner, attorney general, auditor, insurance commissioner, public service commissioners, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, tax commissioner, and treasurer must be prescribed by law. If the legislative assembly establishes a department of labor, the powers and duties of the officer administering that department must be prescribed by law.

SECTION 2. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The governor and the lieutenant governor must be elected on a joint ballot. Each vote cast for a candidate for governor is deemed cast also for the candidate for lieutenant governor nominated jointly with the candidate for governor. The joint candidates having the highest number of votes shall be declared elected, but if two or more joint candidates have an equal and highest number of votes for governor and lieutenant governor, the legislative assembly at its next regular session shall in joint session choose one pair of such joint candidates for the offices. The returns of the election for governor and lieutenant governor must be made in the manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 3. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

To be eligible to hold an elective office established by this article, a person must be a qualified elector of this state and must have been a resident of this state for the two years preceding election to office. The attorney general must be licensed to practice law in this state.

SECTION 4. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The qualified electors shall choose the elected state officials at a time designated by the legislative assembly. The

elected state officials shall serve until their successors are duly qualified. Terms of office are four years, except that terms of the public service commissioners are six years, so arranged that one of them is elected every two years.

If two or more candidates for any executive office receive an equal and highest number of votes, the legislative assembly in joint session shall choose one of them for the office.

SECTION 5. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The compensation of elected state officials must be as provided by law, but may not be diminished during the term for which they were elected.

SECTION 6. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The elected state officials and the chief executive officers of the principal departments shall hold office at the seat of government.

SECTION 7. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The governor is the chief executive of the state. The governor shall have the responsibility to see that the state's business is well administered and that its laws are faithfully executed.

The governor is commander-in-chief of the state's military forces, except when they are called into the service of the United States, and the governor may mobilize them to execute the laws and to maintain order.

The governor shall prescribe the duties of the lieutenant governor in addition to those prescribed in section 10 of this resolution or as provided by law.

The governor may call special sessions of the legislative assembly.

The governor may require information in writing from all executive officials and officers concerning the performance of their respective duties.

The governor may grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons as provided by law. The governor may delegate this power as provided by law.

The governor may supervise business with the United States and other states.

SECTION 8. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The governor may fill a vacancy in any office by appointment if no other method is provided by this constitution or by law. If, while the senate is recessed or adjourned, a vacancy occurs in any office which is filled by appointment with senate confirmation, the governor shall make a temporary appointment to the office. When the senate reconvenes the governor shall make a nomination to fill the office. Except on request of the senate, no nominee rejected by the senate may again be nominated for that office at the same session, nor may the nominee be appointed to that office during a recess or adjournment of the senate.

SECTION 9. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

Every bill passed by the legislative assembly must be presented to the governor for the governor's signature. If the governor signs the bill, it shall become law.

The governor may veto a bill passed by the legislative assembly. The governor may disapprove of any item or items, or part or parts of any bill making appropriations of money or property embracing distinct items. Portions of the bill not vetoed shall become law.

The governor shall return for reconsideration any vetoed item or bill, with a written statement of the governor's objections, to the house in which it originated. That house shall immediately enter the governor's objections upon its journal. If, by a recorded vote, two-thirds of the members elected to that house pass a vetoed item or bill, it, along with the statement of the governor's objections, shall immediately be delivered to the other house. If, by a recorded vote, two-thirds of the members elected to the other house also pass it, the vetoed item or bill shall become law.

While the legislative assembly is in session, a bill shall become law if the governor neither signs nor vetoes it within three days, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, after its delivery to the governor. If the legislative assembly is not in session, a bill shall become law if the governor neither signs nor vetoes it within fifteen days, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, after its delivery to the governor.

SECTION 10. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

Any governor of this state who asks, receives, or agrees to receive any bribe upon any understanding that the governor's official opinion, judgment, or action shall be influenced thereby, or who gives or offers, or promises the governor's official influence in consideration that any member of the legislative assembly shall give the member's official vote or influence on any particular side of any question or matter upon which the member may be required to act in the member's official capacity, or who menaces any member by the threatened use of the governor's veto power, or who offers or promises any member that the governor will appoint any particular person or persons to any office created or thereafter to be created, in consideration that any member shall give the member's official vote or influence on any matter pending or thereafter to be introduced into either house of the legislative assembly, or who threatens any member that the governor will remove any person or persons from office or position with intent in any manner to influence the action of that member, must be punished in the manner now, or that may hereafter be, provided by law, and upon conviction thereof forfeits all right to hold or exercise any office of trust or honor in this state.

SECTION 11. A new section to a new article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby created and enacted to read as follows:

The lieutenant governor shall serve as president of the senate, and may, if the senate is equally divided on a question, vote on procedural and substantive matters. If, during a vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor is unable to serve because of death, impeachment, resignation, failure to qualify, removal from office, or disability, the secretary of state shall act as governor until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

SECTION 12. REPEAL. The present article V of the Constitution of the State of North Dakota is hereby repealed.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. The provisions of this resolution, if approved by the people, shall take effect on July 1, 1987.

Disapproved June 10, 1986

44,706 to 56,115

NOTE: This was measure No. 2 on the primary election ballot.