

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing the addition of a new article 20 to the constitution, in relation to providing for recall

1 Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That article 20 of the  
2 constitution be renumbered article 21 and a new article 20 be added to  
3 read as follows:

4 ARTICLE XX

5 SECTION 1. RECALL IS THE POWER OF THE ELECTORS TO REMOVE AN ELECTIVE  
6 OFFICER.

7 S 2. 1. RECALL OF A STATE OFFICER IS INITIATED BY DELIVERING TO THE  
8 SECRETARY OF STATE A PETITION ALLEGING REASON FOR RECALL. SUFFICIENCY OF  
9 REASON IS NOT REVIEWABLE. PROPONENTS HAVE ONE HUNDRED SIXTY DAYS TO FILE  
10 SIGNED PETITIONS.

11 2. A PETITION TO RECALL A STATEWIDE OFFICER MUST BE SIGNED BY ELECTORS  
12 EQUAL IN NUMBER TO TWELVE PERCENT OF THE LAST VOTE FOR THE OFFICE, WITH  
13 SIGNATURES FROM EACH OF FIVE COUNTIES EQUAL IN NUMBER TO ONE PERCENT OF  
14 THE LAST VOTE FOR THE OFFICE IN THE COUNTY. SIGNATURES TO RECALL  
15 SENATORS, MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND JUDGES OF SUPREME COURTS AND  
16 TRIAL COURTS MUST EQUAL IN NUMBER TWENTY PERCENT OF THE LAST VOTE FOR  
17 THE OFFICE.

18 3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL MAINTAIN A CONTINUOUS COUNT OF THE  
19 SIGNATURES CERTIFIED TO THAT OFFICE.

20 S 3. 1. AN ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO RECALL AN OFFICER AND, IF  
21 APPROPRIATE, TO ELECT A SUCCESSOR SHALL BE CALLED BY THE GOVERNOR AND  
22 HELD NOT LESS THAN SIXTY DAYS NOR MORE THAN EIGHTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF  
23 CERTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENT SIGNATURES.

24 2. A RECALL ELECTION MAY BE CONDUCTED WITHIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS  
25 FROM THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENT SIGNATURES IN ORDER THAT  
26 THE ELECTION MAY BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED  
27 ELECTION OCCURRING WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY WITHIN THE SAME JURISDICTION IN

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

1 WHICH THE RECALL ELECTION IS HELD, IF THE NUMBER OF VOTERS ELIGIBLE TO  
2 VOTE AT THAT NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED ELECTION EQUAL AT LEAST FIFTY  
3 PERCENT OF ALL THE VOTERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE RECALL ELECTION.

4 3. IF THE MAJORITY VOTE ON THE QUESTION IS TO RECALL, THE OFFICER IS  
5 REMOVED AND, IF THERE IS A CANDIDATE, THE CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVES A  
6 PLURALITY IS THE SUCCESSOR. THE OFFICER MAY NOT BE A CANDIDATE, NOR  
7 SHALL THERE BE ANY CANDIDACY FOR AN OFFICE FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO  
8 OF ARTICLE SIX.

9 S 4. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE FOR CIRCULATION, FILING, AND  
10 CERTIFICATION OF PETITIONS, NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES, AND THE RECALL  
11 ELECTION.

12 S 5. IF RECALL OF THE GOVERNOR OR SECRETARY OF STATE IS INITIATED, THE  
13 RECALL DUTIES OF THAT OFFICE SHALL BE PERFORMED BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVER-  
14 NOR OR COMPTROLLER, RESPECTIVELY.

15 S 6. A STATE OFFICER WHO IS NOT RECALLED SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE  
16 STATE FOR THE OFFICER'S RECALL ELECTION EXPENSES LEGALLY AND PERSONALLY  
17 INCURRED. ANOTHER RECALL MAY NOT BE INITIATED AGAINST THE OFFICER UNTIL  
18 SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ELECTION.

19 S 7. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE FOR RECALL OF LOCAL OFFICERS. THIS  
20 SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT COUNTIES AND CITIES WHOSE CHARTERS PROVIDE FOR  
21 RECALL.

22 S 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment  
23 be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the  
24 next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in  
25 conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be  
26 published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.