SB313

198837-1

By Senator Marsh (Constitutional Amendment)

RFD: Governmental Affairs

First Read: 18-APR-19
SYNOPSIS: An existing provision of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 specifies that every citizen of the United States meeting other conditions has the right to vote, but does not expressly limit the right to vote to only citizens of the United States.

This bill would amend the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article VIII of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 177 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Article VIII of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, now appearing as Section 177 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"ARTICLE VIII.

"SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS.

"(a) Every Only a citizen of the United States who has attained the age of eighteen years and has resided in this state and in a county thereof for the time provided by law, if registered as provided by law, shall have the right to vote in the county of his or her residence. The Legislature may prescribe reasonable and nondiscriminatory requirements as prerequisites to registration for voting. The Legislature shall, by statute, prescribe a procedure by which eligible citizens can register to vote.

"(b) No person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, or who is mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote until restoration of civil and political rights or removal of disability.
"(c) The Legislature shall by law provide for the registration of voters, absentee voting, secrecy in voting, the administration of elections, and the nomination of candidates."

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

Section 3. 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 1901, to amend Article VIII of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 177 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to provide that only a citizen of the United States has the right to vote.

"Proposed by Act ________." This description shall be followed by the following language:

"Yes ( ) No ( )."