

PUBLIC ACT 85-1022  
(Senate Bill No. 1655)

AN ACT relating to the call of a Constitutional Convention.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Whenever the question of whether a Constitutional Convention should be called is required to be submitted to the electors of this State pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of Section 1 of Article XIV of the Illinois Constitution, the General Assembly shall prepare a brief explanation of such call, a brief argument in favor of the same, and the form in which such call of a Constitutional Convention will appear on the separate ballot as provided by Section 16-6 of The Election Code, as amended. Members of the General Assembly who oppose the call of a Constitutional Convention or, if there are no members opposing the call of a Constitutional Convention, anyone designated by the General Assembly shall prepare a brief argument against such call of a Constitutional Convention.

The explanation, the arguments for and against a call of a Constitutional Convention and the form in which the call will appear on the separate ballot, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. At least 3 months before the general election in which the questions of the call of the Constitutional Convention shall be submitted to the electors of this State, the Secretary of State shall publish the question of the call of a Constitutional Convention, in full in 8 point type, or the equivalent thereto, in at least one secular newspaper of general circulation in every county in this State in which a newspaper is published. In counties in which 2 or more newspapers are published, the Secretary of State shall cause such question of the call of a Constitutional Convention to be published in 2 newspapers. In counties having a population of 1,000,000 or more, such question shall be published in not less than 6 newspapers of general circulation. After the first publication, the publication of such question shall be repeated once each week

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for 2 consecutive weeks. In selecting newspapers in which to publish such question the Secretary of State shall have regard solely to the circulation of such newspapers, selecting secular newspapers in every case having the largest circulation. The proposed question shall have a notice prefixed thereto in said publications, that at such election the question of calling a Constitutional Convention will be submitted to the electors for adoption or rejection, and at the end of the official publication, he shall also publish the form in which the question of calling a Constitutional Convention will appear on the separate ballot. The Secretary of State shall fix the publication fees to be paid newspapers for making such publication, but in no case shall such publication fee exceed the amount charged by such newspapers to private individuals for a like publication. In addition to the notice hereby required to be published, the Secretary of State shall also cause the question of calling a Constitutional Convention, the explanation of the same, the arguments for and against the same, and the form in which such call will appear on the separate ballot, to be published in pamphlet form in 8 point type or the equivalent thereto; and in cities, villages and incorporated towns having boards of election commissioners, the Secretary of State shall furnish such boards with a sufficient supply of such pamphlets to enable the boards to supply a copy thereof to every elector in their respective cities, villages and incorporated towns and such boards shall mail a copy of the pamphlet to every registered elector in their respective municipalities at least 40 days prior to the election, and shall also supply copies thereof to every elector applying to them. In all counties, the Secretary of State shall furnish a sufficient supply of such pamphlets to the several county clerks to enable the clerks to supply a copy thereof to every elector in their respective counties, outside of cities, villages or incorporated towns that have a board of election commissioners and the county clerks shall mail a copy thereof to every such registered elector in their respective counties not less than 40 days prior to the election and shall also supply copies thereof to every elector applying for them. The Secretary of State shall reimburse each board of election commissioners and each county for postage and other mailing expenses incurred by it in making such distribution and directly connected therewith.

Section 2. This Act takes effect upon becoming a law.

Passed in the General Assembly June 15, 1988.

Approved June 28, 1988.

Effective June 28, 1988.