

Ohio Citizens' Jury Amendment

Be it resolved by the people of the State of Ohio that the Constitution of the State of Ohio is hereby amended to add Section 15a to Article II to read as follows:

Article II. Section 15a. Citizens' Jury

(A) If at least one quarter of the members of both houses of the general assembly sign a letter calling for a citizens' jury to consider passage of a bill, then the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall, within 90 days of receipt of such letter, convene a citizens' jury to vote on the bill. Each citizens' jury shall consider only one bill.

(B) A citizens' jury shall consist of 150 citizens selected at random, each of whom must be

(1) at least 18 years old;

(2) a citizen of the United States of America;

(3) a resident of the State of Ohio for at least the previous 18 months continuously;

(4) an elector, or qualified to be an elector if the person were registered to vote, regardless of whether the person actually is registered to vote; and

(5) not selected to serve on a prior citizens' jury for at least the previous five years.

(C) For each citizens' jury convened by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one of the judges of the courts of common pleas in the State of Ohio to serve as judge for the citizens' jury. The judge for the citizens' jury shall oversee the selection of the members of the citizens' jury to ensure that such selection process comports with all the requirements of Section 15a, Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

(D) (1) After a citizens' jury is empaneled with 150 members, that jury will consider presentations for and against the bill for two weeks. The judge for the citizens' jury will oversee these presentations and will be responsible for ensuring that advocates for and against the bill are given equal time to make their presentations.

(2) During the two weeks of presentations, any person who is a member of any house of the general assembly at the time the citizens' jury is convened may present evidence, call witnesses to testify, and make arguments to the citizens' jury, subject

to limitations imposed by the judge for the citizens' jury in accordance with all the requirements of Section 15a, Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

(E) (1) After two weeks of presentations, the citizens' jury shall have one week in which to deliberate and vote.

(2) If, at any point during that one-week deliberation period, at least ninety (90) of the members of the citizens' jury vote in favor of the bill, then it shall be the law and shall go into effect thirty days after it was approved and shall be published by the secretary of state.

(3) If, at the end of the one-week deliberation period, at least ninety (90) of the members of the citizens' jury have not voted in favor of the bill, then the bill will fail and will not become law.

(F) No law enacted by a citizens' jury shall be subject to the veto of the governor but may be subject to referendum under the procedures set out in Section 1c, Article II of the Ohio State Constitution.

(G) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall convene citizens' juries at an appropriate location in the State's capitol in a space that can accommodate both in-person and remote deliberation. Any member or potential member of a citizens' jury can participate in any part of the proceedings either in-person or remotely through any reasonably available technological means.

(H) Any member or potential member of a citizens' jury is entitled to the same rights that are provided under this State's law to members and potential members of petit juries.

(I) The supreme court of Ohio shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases arising under this article.