

SUMMARY OF NO. 23-15

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow voters to initiate recall elections to remove elected officials from office, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, Sheriff, Governor's Councilor, Register of Probate, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts, County Commissioner, and County Treasurer.

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow voters to initiate a recall election if the elected official committed certain types of misconduct while in office or was convicted of certain crimes. Recall elections initiated during the first six months or the last six months of the elected official's term of office would be prohibited.

A recall election would be initiated by filing with the Secretary of the Commonwealth a recall petition identifying the elected official and the reasons for recall and signed by registered voters equal to at least 25 percent of the total votes cast in the elected official's most recent election. Elected officers facing recall would continue to perform their duties until the result of the recall election were certified.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth would schedule a recall election 35 days after the signatures on the recall petition were verified. If an elected official were recalled, a special

election would be held 60 days later to fill the vacant position. The proposed amendment would allow the Governor to appoint an interim official to hold the vacant position until the special election results were certified. If the Governor were recalled, the Lieutenant Governor would temporarily fill the Governor's position.

The proposed constitutional amendment states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.