

HB84 INTRODUCED



1 HB84
2 QNLFM14-1
3 By Representative Hammett (Constitutional Amendment)
4 RFD: Local Legislation
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 17-Dec-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Covington County, to authorize the Judge of Probate of Covington County to exercise equity jurisdiction concurrent with that of the circuit court in cases originally filed in the Probate Court of Covington County if the judge of probate is licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Covington County, to authorize the Judge of Probate of Covington County to exercise jurisdiction concurrent with certain circuit court cases if the judge of probate is licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, is proposed:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The Judge of Probate of Covington County may exercise



HB84 INTRODUCED

equity jurisdiction concurrent with that of the circuit court in cases originally filed in the Probate Court of Covington County if the judge of probate is licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama. In any case subject to this amendment, the judge of probate shall possess the power and authority of a circuit court judge trying the case and the case shall be treated in all respects in the same manner as a case filed in circuit court. The Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply in the cases except as otherwise specifically provided by law. This amendment is self-executing, but the Legislature may enact additional laws to implement this amendment if needed.

Upon ratification of this constitutional amendment, the Code Commissioner shall number and place this amendment as appropriate in the constitution omitting this instructional paragraph and may make the following nonsubstantive revisions: change capitalization, hierarchy, spelling, and punctuation for purposes of style and uniformity; correct manifest grammatical, clerical, and typographical errors; revise internal or external citations and cross-references; harmonize language; and translate effective dates.

END PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment shall be held in accordance with Sections 284, 284.01, and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of this state. The appropriate election official shall assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the following



HB84 INTRODUCED

description of the substance or subject matter of the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Relating to Covington County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to authorize the Judge of Probate of Covington County to exercise equity jurisdiction concurrent with that of the circuit court in cases originally filed in the Probate Court of Covington County if the judge of probate is licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama.

Proposed by Act ____."

This description shall be followed by the following language:

"Yes() No()."

Section 3. The proposed amendment shall become valid as part of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon.