

As Introduced

136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026

H. J. R. No. 5

Representatives Jarrells, Sims

Cosponsors: Representatives Grim, Upchurch, Synenberg, Cockley, Lawson-Rowe,
Denson, Piccolantonio, Sigrist, Brewer, Somani, Brownlee, Isaacsohn, Lett, Brent,
White, E., McNally, Hall, D., Brennan, Baker, Rader, Tims, Abdullahi, Plummer, Troy,
Miller, J., Russo, Humphrey, Thomas, C., Robinson, Sweeney, LaRe

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Section 6 of Article I of the
Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit slavery
or involuntary servitude in Ohio for the punishment of
crime.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of
Ohio, three-fifths of the members elected to each house
concurring herein, that there shall be submitted to the electors
of the state, in the manner prescribed by law at the general
election to be held on November 4, 2025, a proposal to amend
Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio
to read as follows:

ARTICLE I

Section 6. There shall never be ~~no~~ slavery in this state;
nor involuntary servitude, ~~unless for the punishment of crime.~~

Upon conviction of a crime, an Ohio court or a probation

or parole agency may order the convicted person to engage in 16
education, counseling, treatment, community service, or other 17
alternatives to incarceration, as part of sentencing for the 18
crime, in accordance with programs that have been in place 19
historically or that may be developed in the future, to provide 20
accountability, reformation, protection of society, or 21
rehabilitation. 22

EFFECTIVE DATE 23

If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on this 24
proposal, Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution of the 25
State of Ohio amended by this proposal shall take effect 26
immediately and the existing version of Section 6 of Article I 27
of the Constitution of the State of Ohio is repealed from such 28
effective date. 29