

## CHAPTER 18.

[H. B. 59.]

EQUAL SUFFRAGE, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
PROPOSED.

AN ACT to amend article six (VI) of the Constitution of the State of Washington relating to the qualification of voters within the state.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. That at the general election to be held in this state on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, 1910, there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this state for their adoption and approval an amendment to article six (VI) of the Constitution of the State of Washington, and it is hereby proposed that said article six (VI) be amended, by striking from said article six (VI) all of sections one (1) and (2) and inserting in lieu thereof the following, to be known as section one (1): Section 1. All persons of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote; they shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided*, That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise: *And further provided*, That this amendment shall not affect the rights of franchise of any person who is now a qualified elector of this state. The legislative authority shall enact laws defining the manner of ascertaining the qualifications of voters as to their ability to read and speak the English language, and providing for punishment of persons voting or registering in violation of the provision of this section. There

Elector.

shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election Sex.  
on account of sex.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of State shall cause the amend- Publication.  
ment proposed in section one (1) of this act to be pub-  
lished for three months next preceding the said election  
therein described in some weekly newspaper in every county  
wherein a newspaper is published throughout the state.

SEC. 3. There shall be printed on all ballots provided Ballots.  
for the said election the words: "For the proposed amend-  
ment of article six (VI) of the Constitution relating to the  
qualifications of voters within this state"; "Against the  
proposed amendment to article six (VI) of the Constitu-  
tion, relating to the qualifications of voters within this  
state."

SEC. 4. If it shall appear from the ballots cast at the Proclamation.  
said election that a majority of the qualified electors vot-  
ing upon the question of the adoption of the said amend-  
ment have voted in favor of the same, the Governor shall  
make proclamation of the same in the manner provided  
by law and the said amendment shall be held to have been  
adopted and to have been a part of the Constitution from  
the time of such proclamation.

Passed by the House January 29, 1909.

Passed by the Senate February 23, 1909.

Approved February 25, 1909.