

HM 763

2013

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to propose to the states an amendment  
4 to the Constitution of the United States that would  
5 limit the consecutive terms of office which a member  
6 of the United States Senate or the United States House  
7 of Representatives may serve.  
8

9 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
10 authorizes Congress to propose amendments to the Constitution  
11 which shall become valid when ratified by the states, and

12 WHEREAS, a continuous and growing concern has been  
13 expressed that the best interests of this nation will be served  
14 by limiting the terms of members of Congress, a concern  
15 expressed by the Founding Fathers and incorporated into the  
16 Articles of Confederation, and

17 WHEREAS, the voters of the State of Florida, by the  
18 gathering of petition signatures, placed on the general election  
19 ballot of 1992 a measure to limit the consecutive years of  
20 service for several offices, including the offices of United  
21 States Senator and United States Representative, and

22 WHEREAS, the voters of Florida incorporated this limitation  
23 into the State Constitution as Section 4, Article VI, by an  
24 approval vote that exceeded 76 percent in the general election  
25 of 1992, and

26 WHEREAS, in 1995, the United States Supreme Court ruled in  
27 *U.S. Term Limits, Inc., et al., v. Thornton, et al.*, 514 U.S.  
28 779 (1995), a five-to-four decision, that the individual states

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29 | did not possess the requisite authority to establish term  
30 | limits, or additional qualifications, for persons elected to the  
31 | United States Senate or United States House of Representatives,  
32 | and

33 |       WHEREAS, upon reflecting on the intent of the voters of  
34 | this state and their overwhelming support of congressional term  
35 | limits, the Legislature, in its 114th Regular Session since  
36 | Statehood in 1845, did express through a memorial to Congress  
37 | the desire to receive an amendment to the Constitution of the  
38 | United States to limit the number of consecutive terms that a  
39 | person may serve in the United States Senate or the United  
40 | States House of Representatives, and

41 |       WHEREAS, the Legislature, in its 115th Regular Session  
42 | since Statehood in 1845, does again express the same desire to  
43 | receive such an amendment, NOW, THEREFORE,

44

45 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46

47 |       That the Florida Legislature respectfully petitions the  
48 | Congress of the United States to propose to the states an  
49 | amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the  
50 | number of consecutive terms which a person may serve in the  
51 | United States Senate or the United States House of  
52 | Representatives.

53 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
54 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
55 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
56 | United States House of Representatives, to each member of the

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57 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the  
58 | presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each  
59 | state.