

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Rossin

313-1612-01

1                   Senate Joint Resolution No. \_\_\_\_  
2           A joint resolution proposing amendments to  
3           Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of  
4           Article VI of the State Constitution; revising  
5           the terms of office for certain elected  
6           constitutional officers; providing for  
7           staggered terms of office; revising limitations  
8           on the number of consecutive years during which  
9           certain elected constitutional officers may  
10          hold office.

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12 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           That the following amendments to Section 15 of Article  
15          III and Section 4 of Article VI of the State Constitution are  
16          agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state  
17          for approval or rejection at the next general election or an  
18          earlier special election specifically authorized by law for  
19          that purpose and, if approved, shall take effect January 1,  
20          2011:

21                                   ARTICLE III  
22                                   LEGISLATURE

23           SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.--  
24           (a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for terms of  
25          six four years, ~~those from odd-numbered districts in the years~~  
26          ~~the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from~~  
27          ~~even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of~~  
28          ~~which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next~~  
29          following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected  
30          for terms of two years or four years when necessary to  
31          maintain staggered terms. Senators from districts the number

1 of which is a multiple of three shall be elected in each  
2 even-numbered year that is a multiple of three, senators from  
3 all other even-numbered districts shall be elected in the  
4 second year following each even-numbered year that is a  
5 multiple of three, and senators from all other odd-numbered  
6 districts shall be elected in the fourth year following each  
7 even-numbered year that is a multiple of three.

8 (b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of  
9 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,  
10 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of  
11 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered  
12 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not  
13 multiples of four; except, at the election next following a  
14 reapportionment, some representatives shall be elected for  
15 terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms  
16 in each even-numbered year.

17 (c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least  
18 twenty-one years of age, an elector and resident of the  
19 district from which elected and shall have resided in the  
20 state for a period of two years prior to election.

21 (d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the  
22 legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in  
23 legislative office shall be filled only by election as  
24 provided by law.

25 ARTICLE VI

26 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

27 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.--

28 (a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in  
29 this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be  
30 qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil  
31 rights or removal of disability.

1 (b) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election  
2 to any of the following offices:

3 ~~(1) Florida representative,~~

4 ~~(2) Florida senator,~~

5 (1)~~(3)~~ Florida Lieutenant governor,

6 (2)~~(4)~~ any office of the Florida cabinet,

7 (3)~~(5)~~ U.S. Representative from Florida, or

8 (4)~~(6)~~ U.S. Senator from Florida

9  
10 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will  
11 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in  
12 that office for eight consecutive years.

13 (c) No person may appear on the ballot for reelection  
14 to the office of Florida representative or Florida senator if,  
15 by the end of the current term of office, the person will have  
16 served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that  
17 office for twelve consecutive years.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
19 placed on the ballot:

20 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

21 ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

22 ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

23 TERMS OF OFFICE AND TERM LIMITS.--Proposing amendments  
24 to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2011, to  
25 increase the terms of office for Florida Senators from 4 years  
26 to 6 years and for Florida Representatives from 2 years to 4  
27 years; and to increase, from 8 years to 12 years, the number  
28 of consecutive years during which a Florida Representative and  
29 Florida Senator may hold office.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SJR 488

The committee substitute differs from the original joint resolution in that it: removes modifications to term limits applying to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Cabinet Members; eliminates all changes to campaign finance law.