

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senators Silver, Rossin, Latvala and Sullivan

313-2118-02

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Senate Joint Resolution No. ____

A joint resolution proposing amendments to Section 5 of Article IV and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution, relating to suffrage and elections; revising limitations on the number of consecutive years during which certain elected constitutional officers may hold office.

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

That the following amendments to Section 5 of Article IV and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE IV
EXECUTIVE

SECTION 5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.--

(a) At a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four, the electors shall choose a governor and a lieutenant governor and members of the cabinet each for a term of four years beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year. In primary elections, candidates for the office of governor may choose to run without a lieutenant governor candidate. In the general

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 election, all candidates for the offices of governor and
2 lieutenant governor shall form joint candidacies in a manner
3 prescribed by law so that each voter shall cast a single vote
4 for a candidate for governor and a candidate for lieutenant
5 governor running together.

6 (b) When elected, the governor, lieutenant governor
7 and each cabinet member must be an elector not less than
8 thirty years of age who has resided in the state for the
9 preceding seven years. The attorney general must have been a
10 member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years. No
11 person who has, or but for resignation would have, served as
12 governor or acting governor for more than six years in two
13 consecutive terms shall be elected governor for the succeeding
14 term. No person may appear on the ballot for reelection to the
15 office of Lieutenant Governor if, by the end of the current
16 term of office, the person will have served, or but for
17 resignation would have served, in that office for eight
18 consecutive years.

19 ARTICLE VI

20 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

21 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.--

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

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

28 (1) Florida representative,

29 (2) Florida senator, or

30 ~~(3) Florida Lieutenant governor,~~

31 (3)~~(4)~~ any office of the Florida cabinet,

1 United States Supreme Court has determined violate the U.S.
2 Constitution.

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4 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
5 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
6 SJR 1666 and 1118

7 The committee substitute differs from the original bills in
8 that it: does not impose term limits on Florida Supreme Court
9 justices; does not extend the term of Governor and Lieutenant
10 Governor from 8 consecutive years to 12 consecutive years;
11 provides that the term limits extension from 8 to 12
12 consecutive years for state legislators and Florida Cabinet
13 members does not apply to current office holders; and,
14 specifically removes ballot access limitations on U.S.
15 Senators and U.S. Representatives, which the U.S. Supreme
16 Court has determined are unenforceable.
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