

By Senator Bennett

21-00486-11

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to revise the term limits that apply to State Senators and State Representatives and to impose term limits on elected county and municipal officers.

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

That the following amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new Section in 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 at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.-

(a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for staggered terms of six ~~four~~ years. The legislature must divide the senate districts as evenly as possible into three classes, ~~those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary~~ to maintain staggered terms.

(b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of

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30 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,
 31 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of
 32 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered
 33 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not
 34 multiples of four in each even-numbered year.

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

39 (d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the legislature
 40 shall take office upon election. Vacancies in legislative office
 41 shall be filled only by election as provided by law.

ARTICLE VI

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

45 (a) A ~~No~~ person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in
 46 this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, is not ~~shall~~
 47 ~~be~~ qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil
 48 rights or removal of disability.

49 (b) A ~~No~~ person may not appear on the ballot for re-
 50 election as a senator, representative, county officer, or
 51 municipal officer if, by the end of the current term of office,
 52 the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have
 53 served) in that office for twelve consecutive years. ~~to any of~~
 54 ~~the following offices:~~

55 ~~(1) Florida representative,~~

56 ~~(2) Florida senator,~~

57 (c) (3) A person may not appear on the ballot for re-
 58 election as the Florida Lieutenant governor, or

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- 59 ~~(4) any office of the Florida cabinet office,~~
60 ~~(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or~~
61 ~~(6) U.S. Senator from Florida~~

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63 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
64 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that
65 office for eight consecutive years.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

66 Implementation of amendments relating to the terms of
67 certain elected officials.-

68 (a) The amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section
69 4 of Article VI and the creation of this section shall take
70 effect upon approval by the electors.

71 (b) During the organizational session following the 2012
72 general election, the Legislature shall implement the amendment
73 to subsection (a) of Section 15 of Article III by law. Under the
74 implementing legislation, senators elected during the 2012
75 general election shall be elected to terms of at least four
76 years. The terms of senators having two years remaining to their
77 terms on the date of the general election may be extended by two
78 years.

79 (c) Those representatives elected in odd-numbered districts
80 in the 2012 general election shall be elected to terms of two
81 years. Those representatives elected in even-numbered districts
82 in the 2012 general election shall be elected to terms of four
83 years.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
85 placed on the ballot:
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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

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ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

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ARTICLE XII

92 TERMS OF STATE SENATORS, STATE REPRESENTATIVES, AND ELECTED

93 COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.—The State Constitution provides

94 that State Senators are elected to terms of 4 years and State

95 Representatives are elected to terms of 2 years. The State

96 Constitution also generally limits State Senators and State

97 Representatives to serving 8 consecutive years in office.

98 However, the State Constitution does not limit the number of

99 consecutive years in office that may be served by a county or

100 municipal officer.

101 This amendment lengthens the terms of State Senators to 6

102 years and the terms of State Representatives to 4 years. The

103 amendment also generally limits State Senators, State

104 Representatives, and elected county and municipal officers to 12

105 consecutive years in office. However, the amendment does not

106 change the length of the term of any elected county or municipal

107 office.