

By Senator Bennett

21-00298-12

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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 terms and term limits that apply to state senators and state representatives.

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 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,

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30 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of
 31 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered
 32 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not
 33 multiples of four ~~in each even-numbered year.~~

34 (c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least
 35 twenty-one years of age and~~7~~ an elector and resident of the
 36 district from which elected and shall have resided in the state
 37 for a period of two years prior to election.

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

41 ARTICLE VI

42 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

43 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

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

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

53 ~~(1) Florida representative,~~

54 ~~(2) Florida senator,~~

55 ~~(c)(3)~~ A person may not appear on the ballot for re-
 56 election to the office of Florida lieutenant governor or to~~7~~

57 ~~(4) any office of the Florida cabinet office,~~

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

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59 ~~(6) U.S. Senator from Florida~~

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

64 ARTICLE XII

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

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

86 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

87 ARTICLE III, SECTION 15

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ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4

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ARTICLE XII

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TERMS OF STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES.—The

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State Constitution provides that state senators are elected to

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terms of 4 years and state representatives are elected to terms

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of 2 years. The State Constitution also generally limits state

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senators and state representatives to serving 8 consecutive

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years in office.

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This amendment increases the terms of state senators from 4

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to 6 years and the terms of state representatives from 2 to 4

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years. The amendment also generally limits state senators and

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state representatives to serving 12 consecutive years in office.