

By Senator Brandes

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Senate Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1995, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779 (1995), a 5 to 4 decision, that the individual states did not possess the requisite authority to establish term limits, or additional

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30 qualifications, for persons elected to the United States Senate
31 or United States House of Representatives, and

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

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

43
44 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
53 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
54 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
55 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the
56 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the
57 presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each
58 state.