

By Senator Grimsley

21-01272-14

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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 terms of state senators and state representatives and revise limits on the period for which a person may be elected as a state senator or state representative.

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, effective upon approval by the electors:

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~~

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30 ~~necessary~~ to maintain staggered terms.

31 (b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of
 32 representatives shall be elected for terms of four ~~two~~ years,
 33 those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of
 34 which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered
 35 districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not
 36 multiples of four ~~in each even-numbered year.~~

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

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

44 ARTICLE VI

45 SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

46 SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

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

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

56 ~~(1) Florida representative,~~

57 ~~(2) Florida senator,~~

58 (c) (3) A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection

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59 to the office of Florida lieutenant governor,
 60 ~~(4) any office of the Florida cabinet office, or the office~~
 61 of,
 62 ~~(5) U.S. Representative from Florida,~~ or
 63 ~~(6) U.S. Senator from Florida~~
 64 if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
 65 have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that
 66 office for eight consecutive years.

67 ARTICLE XII

68 SCHEDULE

69 Implementation of amendments relating to the terms of
 70 certain elected officials.-

71 (a) The amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section
 72 4 of Article VI and the creation of this section shall take
 73 effect upon approval by the electors.

74 (b) During the organization session following the 2014
 75 general election, the legislature shall implement the amendment
 76 to Section 15(a) of Article II by law. Under the implementing
 77 legislation, senators elected during the 2014 general election
 78 shall be elected to terms of at least four years. The terms of
 79 senators having two years remaining to their terms on the date
 80 of the general election may be extended by two years.

81 (c) The representatives elected in even-numbered districts
 82 in the 2014 general election shall be elected to terms of two
 83 years. Those representatives elected in odd-numbered districts
 84 in the 2014 general election shall be elected to terms of four
 85 years.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
 87 placed on the ballot:

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE III, SECTION 15
ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4
ARTICLE XII

TERMS OF STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES.—
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective immediately upon approval, to increase the terms for which state senators are elected from 4 years to 6 years, increase the terms for which state representatives are elected from 2 years to 4 years, and increase limits on the period for which a person may be elected as state senator or state representative, generally from 8 consecutive years to 12 consecutive years.