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**SJR 3** – Legislative Term Limits, Constitutional Amendment (LSB1212SS)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate Joint Resolution 3** proposes an amendment to the Iowa Constitution limiting the terms of service for persons elected to the Iowa House and Iowa Senate. The amendment provides that a member of the House of Representatives shall not serve more than six two-year terms as a Representative, and that a member of the Senate shall not serve more than three four-year terms as a Senator. The amendment also provides that if a person is elected to serve a portion of a term, the term shall not be included in counting terms of service if the person did not serve at least one-half of the full term. The amendment applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

**Background**

Iowa Code section [49A.1](#) and the Iowa Constitution require that when a proposed amendment to the Constitution has passed by the General Assembly and has been referred to the next succeeding General Assembly, the General Assembly is required to publish the proposed amendment in two newspapers of general circulation in each Iowa congressional district once each month, for three consecutive months, prior to the start of the next General Assembly. The General Assembly is also required to make the amendment available on an Internet site.

Upon passage of the same amendment by the succeeding General Assembly, Iowa Code section [49A.2](#) requires the amendment to be published in newspapers in all 99 counties once each month, for three consecutive months, immediately preceding the general election.

Iowa Code section [49A.9](#) requires constitutional amendment publication expenses be paid by the State Commissioner of Elections (Secretary of State).

**Assumptions**

- The average cost to publish an amendment in a single newspaper is \$600.
- Publication of the initial amendment would occur in eight newspapers (two in each congressional district) for a three-month period, if passed by the 89th General Assembly.
- Subsequent publication of the amendment would occur in 99 newspapers (one in each county) for a three-month period if the amendment were passed by the 90th General Assembly.

**Fiscal Impact**

**Constitutional Amendment Publication Cost.** The estimated cost to publish a proposed constitutional amendment passed by the General Assembly during the 2021 Legislative Session would be \$14,400 (8 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2022 (FY 2023).

Assuming the proposed amendment is passed a second time during the 2023 Legislative Session, the estimated cost would be \$178,200 (99 newspapers x 3 months x \$600). The costs would be incurred in the fall of 2024 (FY 2025).

These publication costs would be paid from moneys appropriated to the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

**Sources**

Legislative Services Agency  
Office of the Secretary of State

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

January 27, 2021

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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