

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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McLAREN, and BANKS

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the proposal of an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the United States to limit the years of
3 service of members of Congress.

4 WHEREAS, the founders of our nation envisioned Congress as a
5 nonpartisan, part-time legislative body whose members would take
6 time from their normal businesses and professions to attend the
7 congressional session for four to five months annually; and

8 WHEREAS, pressing matters of national concern have forced
9 Congress to become an increasingly structured and professional
10 institution, rather than the informal, flexible assembly of
11 citizens that prevailed in the federalist era; and

12 WHEREAS, the power of incumbency has grown to the point that
13 an incumbent is nearly invincible in a typical election; and

14 WHEREAS, the seniority system in Congress perpetuates the
15 importance of lengthy congressional service; and

16 WHEREAS, new members of Congress, fresh from their association
17 with the American people, are more likely to bring innovative
18 ideas and rejuvenated vigor to Congress; and

19 WHEREAS, a member of Congress spends a significant amount of
20 time campaigning for office, rather than attending to
21 congressional duties; and

22 WHEREAS, the power of incumbency makes congressional elections
23 seem an expensive and exasperating waste of the time and talents

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1 of each member of Congress; and

2 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United
3 States, a constitutional amendment may be proposed by Congress,
4 or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the
5 states, Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the
6 purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall
7 become part of the Constitution of the United States when
8 ratified by three-fourths of the states; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 That the Congress of the United States is hereby petitioned
2 to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to
4 limit the number of years a person may serve in the United
5 States House of Representatives to no more than twelve, and to
6 limit the number of years a person may serve in the United
7 States Senate to no more than twelve and providing that if a
8 person serves a portion of a term to which some other person
9 was elected, those years shall not be included in the total
10 years of service.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, alternatively, pursuant to
12 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
13 General Assembly, as the Legislature of the State of Iowa,
14 makes application to the Congress of the United States to call
15 a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of
16 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
17 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to
18 limit the number of years a person may serve in the United
19 States House of Representatives to no more than twelve, and to
20 limit the number of years a person may serve in the United
21 States Senate to no more than twelve and providing that if a
22 person serves a portion of a term to which some other person
23 was elected, those years shall not be included in the total
24 years of service.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if, within sixty days after
26 the legislatures of two-thirds of the states make application
27 for such convention, Congress proposes and submits to the
28 states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of
29 the United States which limits congressional years of service
30 in a manner substantially similar to the manner contained in
31 this Joint Resolution, then this application for a convention
32 shall no longer be of any force and effect.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the convention is not
34 limited to the specific and exclusive purposes of this Joint
35 Resolution, this application and request shall be null and

1 void, and shall be rescinded and of no effect.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a
3 continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
4 Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds
5 of the legislatures of the several states have made
6 application for a similar convention under Article V, or the
7 Congress has proposed the amendment called for by this Joint
8 Resolution, or the General Assembly acts to withdraw this
9 application.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall
11 transmit certified copies of this Joint Resolution to the
12 President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the
13 Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of
14 Representatives, each member of the Iowa delegation to the
15 Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of each
16 state legislature in the United States.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the
19 Congress of the United States to propose a constitutional
20 amendment to limit the number of years a person may serve in
21 the United States House of Representatives to no more than 12,
22 and to limit the number of years a person may serve in the
23 United States Senate to no more than 12. Partial terms served
24 are not included in the total years of service.

25 Alternatively, the resolution is an application to the
26 Congress from the State of Iowa, as required by Article V of
27 the Constitution of the United States, calling upon Congress
28 to convene a constitutional convention concerning the proposed
29 amendment.

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