

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2004
BY ZIEMAN

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 limiting the number of terms
3 of service of members of the United States 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
24 of each member of Congress; and
25 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United

S. J. R. 2004

1 States, a constitutional amendment may be proposed by Congress,
2 or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the
3 states, Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the
4 purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall
5 become part of the Constitution of the United States when
6 ratified by three-fourths of the states; NOW THEREFORE,
7 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 terms a person may serve in the United
5 States House of Representatives to no more than three, and to
6 limit the number of terms a person may serve in the United
7 States Senate to no more than two and providing that upon
8 ratification of this amendment no person who has held the
9 office of United States Representative or who then holds the
10 office shall serve for more than two additional terms and
11 providing that upon ratification of this amendment no person
12 who has held the office of United States Senator or who then
13 holds the office shall serve for more than one additional
14 term.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, alternatively, pursuant to
16 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
17 General Assembly, as the Legislature of the State of Iowa,
18 makes application to the Congress of the United States to call
19 a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of
20 the United States, for submission to the states for
21 ratification, to limit the number of terms a person may serve
22 in the United States House of Representatives, and to limit
23 the number of terms a person may serve in the United States
24 Senate.

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 purposes of this Joint Resolution, this
35 application and request shall be null and void, and shall be

1 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 terms a person may serve in
21 the United States House of Representatives to no more than
22 three, and to limit the number of terms a person may serve in
23 the United States Senate to no more than two. Upon
24 ratification of the amendment, a term currently being served,
25 or terms that have been served, shall count as one term for
26 purposes of the limitation.

27 Alternatively, the resolution is an application to the
28 Congress from the State of Iowa, as required by Article V of
29 the Constitution of the United States, calling upon Congress
30 to convene a convention for the purpose of proposing
31 amendments to the Constitution limiting the number of terms a
32 person may serve in the United States House of Representatives
33 or the United States Senate.

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