

1-18-95 State Seal

FILED JAN 18 1995

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3
BY ZIEMAN, HEDGE, and BARTZ

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 change the term of office
3 of members of the House of Representatives.

4 WHEREAS, the founders of our nation envisioned the United
5 States House of Representatives as a legislative body whose
6 proportional representation of citizens counterbalanced the
7 numerically stable representation to be provided by the Senate;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, over the years, the view of the House of
10 Representatives as the body of Congress more subject to short-
11 lived political trends or movements has fallen by the wayside;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the federal legislative process has developed into a
14 more complex, time-consuming process than it was when the
15 Congress of the United States was established; and

16 WHEREAS, members of the House of Representatives spend a
17 significant amount of their two-year terms campaigning for
18 office, rather than attending to congressional duties; and

19 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United
20 States, a constitutional amendment may be proposed by Congress,
21 or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the
22 states, Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the
23 purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall
24 become part of the Constitution of the United States when

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1 ratified by three-fourths of the states; NOW THEREFORE,
2 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 change the term of office of members of the United States
5 House of Representatives from two years to four years and to
6 classify Representatives by statute so that as nearly as
7 possible one-half of the members of the House of
8 Representatives shall be elected every two years.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, alternatively, pursuant to
10 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
11 General Assembly, as the Legislature of the State of Iowa,
12 makes application to the Congress of the United States to call
13 a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of
14 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
15 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to
16 change the term of office of members of the United States
17 House of Representatives from two years to four years and to
18 classify Representatives by statute so that as nearly as
19 possible one-half of the members of the House of
20 Representatives shall be elected every two years.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if, within sixty days after
22 the legislatures of two-thirds of the states make application
23 for such convention, Congress proposes and submits to the
24 states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of
25 the United States which changes the term of office of members
26 of the United States House of Representatives from two years
27 to four years and which requires Representatives to be
28 classified by statute so that as nearly as possible one-half
29 of the members of the House of Representatives shall be
30 elected every two years, then this application for a
31 convention shall no longer be of any force and effect.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the convention is not
33 limited to the specific and exclusive purposes of this Joint
34 Resolution, this application and request shall be null and
35 void, and shall be rescinded and of no effect.

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

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

16 EXPLANATION

17 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the
18 Congress of the United States to propose a constitutional
19 amendment to change the term of office of members of the
20 United States House of Representatives from two years to four
21 years with one-half of the members being elected every two
22 years.

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

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