

FEB 10 1997
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9
BY GRUNDBERG and BODDICKER

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

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office for
3 members of the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House of
4 Representatives.

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

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HJR 9

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the
4 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu
5 thereof:

6 REPRESENTATIVES -- CLASSIFICATION. Sec. 3. The members of
7 the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified
8 electors of their respective districts, and their term of
9 office shall commence on the first day of January following
10 their election which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, and
11 continue four years, and until their successors are elected
12 and qualified. Representatives shall be classified by statute
13 so that as nearly as possible one-half of the members of the
14 House of Representatives shall be elected every two years.

15 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law
16 governing the time of election and terms of office of
17 Representatives as shall be necessary to make the time of
18 their election and terms of office conform to this amendment.

19 2. Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution of the
20 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu
21 thereof:

22 SENATORS -- QUALIFICATIONS. Sec. 5. Senators shall be
23 chosen for a term of six years, at the same time and place as
24 Representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and
25 possess the qualifications of Representatives as to residence
26 and citizenship.

27 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law
28 governing the time of election and terms of office of Senators
29 as shall be necessary to make the time of their election and
30 terms of office conform to this amendment.

31 3. Section 6 of Article III of the Constitution of the
32 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 3 of the
33 Amendments of 1968, is repealed and the following adopted in
34 lieu thereof:

35 SENATORS -- NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION. Sec. 6. The number

1 of Senators shall total not more than one-half the membership
2 of the House of Representatives. Senators shall be classified
3 by statute so that as nearly as possible one-third of the
4 members of the Senate shall be elected every two years.

5 4. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the
6 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of Amendments
7 of 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of 1904, and
8 amendment number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is repealed and
9 the following adopted in lieu thereof:

10 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES -- NUMBER AND DISTRICTS. Sec.

11 35. The General Assembly shall in each year immediately
12 following the United States decennial census determine the
13 number of Senators and Representatives to be elected to the
14 General Assembly and establish senatorial and representative
15 districts. The General Assembly shall complete the
16 apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.
17 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September 15
18 of such year, the Supreme Court shall cause the State to be
19 apportioned into senatorial and representative districts to
20 comply with the requirements of the Constitution prior to
21 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,
22 where necessary in establishing senatorial and representative
23 districts, shorten the term of any Senator or Representative
24 prior to completion of the term. Any Senator or
25 Representative whose term is so terminated shall not be
26 compensated for the uncompleted part of the term.

27 Sec. 2. The foregoing amendment to the Constitution of the
28 State of Iowa is referred to the General Assembly to be chosen
29 at the next general election for members of the General
30 Assembly and the Secretary of State is directed to cause the
31 same to be published for three consecutive months previous to
32 the date of that election as provided by law.

33

EXPLANATION

34 This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment
35 to provide members of the house of representatives with terms

1 of four years and members of the senate with terms of six
2 years. The amendment provides that one-third of the members
3 of the senate and one-half of the members of the nouse of
4 representatives are to be elected every two years.

5 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
6 general assembly before being submitted to the electorate for
7 ratification.

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