

2-17-97 State Gov.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6
BY HALVORSON

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 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

S.T.R. 6

1 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United
2 States, a constitutional amendment may be proposed by Congress,
3 or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the
4 states, Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the
5 purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall
6 become part of the Constitution of the United States when
7 ratified by three-fourths of the states; NOW THEREFORE,
8 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 six, and to
6 limit the number of terms a person may serve in the United
7 States Senate to no more than two.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, alternatively, pursuant to
9 Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the
10 General Assembly, as the Legislature of the State of Iowa,
11 makes application to the Congress of the United States to call
12 a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of
13 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States,
14 for submission to the states for ratification, to limit the
15 number of terms a person may serve in the United States House
16 of Representatives to no more than six, and to limit the
17 number of terms a person may serve in the United States Senate
18 to no more than two.

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

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the convention is not
28 limited to the specific and exclusive purposes of this Joint
29 Resolution, this application and request shall be null and
30 void, and shall be rescinded and of no effect.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a
32 continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
33 Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds
34 of the legislatures of the several states have made
35 application for a similar convention under Article V, or the

1 Congress has proposed the amendment called for by this Joint
2 Resolution, or the General Assembly acts to withdraw this
3 application.

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

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EXPLANATION

12 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the
13 Congress of the United States to propose a constitutional
14 amendment to limit the number of terms a person may serve in
15 the United States House of Representatives to no more than
16 six, and to limit the number of terms a person may serve in
17 the United States Senate to no more than two.

18 Alternatively, the resolution is an application to the
19 Congress from the State of Iowa, as required by Article V of
20 the Constitution of the United States, calling upon Congress
21 to convene a convention for the purpose of proposing
22 amendments to the Constitution limiting the number of terms a
23 person may serve in the United States House of Representatives
24 or the United States Senate.

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