

## House Joint Resolution 10 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10  
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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa relating to term limits for members of  
3 the general assembly.

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

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 State  
4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 **Representatives.** SEC. 3. The members of the house of  
6 representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the  
7 qualified electors of their respective districts, and their  
8 term of office shall commence on the first day of January next  
9 after their election, and continue two years, and until their  
10 successors are elected and qualified. No person who has, or  
11 but for resignation would have, served eight consecutive terms  
12 shall be elected as a representative for the succeeding term.  
13 If a person is elected to serve a portion of a term to which  
14 some other person was elected but that person died in office  
15 or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,  
16 those years served shall not be included in the consecutive  
17 years of service for purposes of this limitation. This  
18 limitation on consecutive years of service shall only apply to  
19 terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

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21 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

22 **Senators — qualifications.** SEC. 5. Senators shall be  
23 chosen for the term of four 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. No person who has, or but for resignation  
27 would have, served four consecutive terms shall be elected as  
28 a senator for the succeeding term. If a person is elected  
29 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was  
30 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office  
31 or was otherwise removed from office, those years served  
32 shall not be included in the consecutive years of service for  
33 purposes of this limitation. This limitation on consecutive  
34 years of service shall only apply to terms of office beginning  
35 on or after January 1, 2017.

1     Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment  
2 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the  
3 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election  
4 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of  
5 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three  
6 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as  
7 provided by law.

8

EXPLANATION

9     This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
10 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to term of service  
11 for persons elected to the offices of representative or senator  
12 in the general assembly. The amendment provides that any  
13 person elected as a representative shall be eligible to serve  
14 eight consecutive terms in that position, but shall not be  
15 eligible to serve a ninth consecutive term. The amendment  
16 provides that any person elected as a senator shall be eligible  
17 to serve four consecutive terms in that position, but shall not  
18 be eligible to serve a fifth consecutive term. The amendment  
19 therefore limits the offices of representatives and senators  
20 to 16 consecutive years of service. The amendment provides  
21 that a resignation from either of these positions alone would  
22 not serve to break the counting of consecutive terms. The  
23 limitation on consecutive years of service shall commence with  
24 terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

25     The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
26 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the  
27 electorate for ratification.