

# Senate Joint Resolution 4 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4  
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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office  
3 and limit the term of service of members of the general  
4 assembly.

5 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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 — classification.** SEC. 3. The members of  
6 the house of representatives shall be chosen by the qualified  
7 electors of their respective districts, and their term of  
8 office shall commence on the first day of January following  
9 their election which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, and  
10 continue four years, and until their successors are elected and  
11 qualified. Representatives shall be classified by statute so  
12 that as nearly as possible one-half of the members of the house  
13 of representatives shall be elected every two years. A person  
14 shall not be elected for a term as representative if the term  
15 would result in more than a total of twelve years of service as  
16 a representative. If a person is elected to serve a portion  
17 of a term to which some other person was elected but that  
18 person died in office or resigned from office or was otherwise  
19 removed from office, those years served shall not be included  
20 in the years of service for purposes of this limitation. This  
21 limitation on the years of service shall only apply to terms of  
22 office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

23 The general assembly shall make such changes in the  
24 law governing the time of election and terms of office of  
25 representatives as shall be necessary to make the time of their  
26 election and terms of office conform to this amendment.

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28 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

29 **Senators — qualifications.** SEC. 5. Senators shall be  
30 chosen for a term of six years, at the same time and place as  
31 representatives; they shall be at least twenty-five years of  
32 age, and possess the qualifications of representatives as to  
33 residence and citizenship. A person shall not be elected for a  
34 term as senator if the term would result in more than a total of  
35 twelve years of service as a senator. If a person is elected

1 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was  
2 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office  
3 or was otherwise removed from office, those years served shall  
4 not be included in the years of service for purposes of this  
5 limitation. This limitation on the years of service shall only  
6 apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

7 The general assembly shall make such changes in the law  
8 governing the time of election and terms of office of senators  
9 as shall be necessary to make the time of their election and  
10 terms of office conform to this amendment.

11 3. Section 6 of Article III of the Constitution of the State  
12 of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 3 of the Amendments of  
13 1968, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

14 **Senators — number and classification.** SEC. 6. The number of  
15 senators shall total not more than one-half the membership of  
16 the house of representatives. Senators shall be classified by  
17 statute so that as nearly as possible one-third of the members  
18 of the senate shall be elected every two years.

19 4. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the  
20 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of Amendments  
21 of 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of 1904, and  
22 amendment number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is repealed and  
23 the following adopted in lieu thereof:

24 **Senators and representatives — number and districts.** SEC.  
25 35. The general assembly shall in each year immediately  
26 following the United States decennial census determine the  
27 number of senators and representatives to be elected to the  
28 general assembly and establish senatorial and representative  
29 districts. The general assembly shall complete the  
30 apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.  
31 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September  
32 15 of such year, the supreme court shall cause the state to  
33 be apportioned into senatorial and representative districts  
34 to comply with the requirements of the constitution prior to  
35 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,

1 where necessary in establishing senatorial and representative  
2 districts, shorten the term of any senator or representative  
3 prior to completion of the term. Any senator or representative  
4 whose term is so terminated shall not be compensated for the  
5 uncompleted part of the term.

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

13 EXPLANATION

14 This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment  
15 relating to length of term and term of service for members of  
16 the general assembly. The amendment provides that the length  
17 of term of office for members of the house of representatives  
18 shall be four years and for members of the senate the length  
19 of term of office shall be six years. The amendment provides  
20 that one-third of the members of the senate and one-half of  
21 the members of the house of representatives are to be elected  
22 every two years. The amendment also provides that members of  
23 the Iowa house of representatives shall not serve more than 12  
24 years as a representative and that members of the Iowa senate  
25 shall not serve more than 12 years as a senator. If a person  
26 serves a portion of a term to which some other person was  
27 elected, the partial term shall not be included in the years  
28 of service. The limitation on the years of service shall only  
29 apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

30 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
31 general assembly before being submitted to the electorate for  
32 ratification.