

House Joint Resolution 1 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1
BY COWNIE

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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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 six 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 that portion of a term served shall not be included in the
17 consecutive terms of service for purposes of this limitation.
18 The limitation on consecutive terms of service shall only apply
19 to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2031.

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21 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 three consecutive terms shall be elected
28 as 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
31 office or was otherwise removed from office, that portion of
32 a term served shall not be included in the consecutive terms
33 of service for purposes of this limitation. The limitation
34 on consecutive terms of service shall only apply to terms of
35 office beginning on or after January 1, 2031.

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 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
10 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

11 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
12 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to terms of service
13 for persons elected to the offices of representative or senator
14 in the general assembly. The proposed amendment provides that
15 any person elected as a representative shall be eligible to
16 serve six consecutive terms in that position, but shall not be
17 eligible to serve a seventh consecutive term. The amendment
18 provides that any person elected as a senator shall be eligible
19 to serve three consecutive terms in that position, but shall
20 not be eligible to serve a fourth consecutive term. The
21 amendment therefore limits the offices of representatives and
22 senators to 12 consecutive years of service in a particular
23 chamber of the general assembly. The amendment provides that a
24 resignation from office would not serve to break the counting
25 of consecutive terms for the person resigning but would not be
26 counted as a term of office for the person filling the vacancy.
27 The limitation on consecutive terms of service shall commence
28 with terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2031.

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