

# Senate Joint Resolution 2005 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2005  
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SCHULTZ

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa limiting terms of service for members  
3 of the general assembly, the governor, the lieutenant  
4 governor, the secretary of state, the auditor of state,  
5 the treasurer of state, and other elected state executive  
6 officials.

7 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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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. A person shall not be  
11 elected for a term as representative if the term would result  
12 in the person serving more than a total of six consecutive  
13 terms as a representative. If a person is elected to serve  
14 a portion of a term to which some other person was elected  
15 but that person died in office or resigned from office or was  
16 otherwise removed from office, that portion of a term served  
17 shall not be included in the terms of service for purposes of  
18 this limitation if the representative did not serve for at  
19 least one-half of the two-year term. This limitation on terms  
20 of service applies to terms of office beginning on or after  
21 January 1, 2021.

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23 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

24 **Senators — qualifications.** SEC. 5. Senators shall be  
25 chosen for the term of four years, at the same time and place as  
26 representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and  
27 possess the qualifications of representatives as to residence  
28 and citizenship. A person shall not be elected for a term as  
29 senator if the term would result in the person serving more  
30 than a total of three consecutive terms as a senator. If a  
31 person is elected to serve a portion of a term to which some  
32 other person was elected but that person died in office or  
33 resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office, that  
34 portion of a term served shall not be included in the terms  
35 of service for purposes of this limitation if the senator did

1 not serve for at least one-half of the four-year term. This  
2 limitation on terms of service applies to terms of office  
3 beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

4 3. Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State  
5 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

6 **Eligibility.** SEC. 6. No person shall be eligible to the  
7 office of governor, or lieutenant governor, who shall not have  
8 been a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the  
9 state, two years next preceding the election, and attained the  
10 age of thirty years at the time of said election.

11 A person shall not be elected for a term as governor if  
12 the term would result in the person serving more than a total  
13 of three consecutive terms as governor. A person shall not  
14 be elected for a term as lieutenant governor if the term  
15 would result in the person serving more than a total of three  
16 consecutive terms as lieutenant governor. If a person is  
17 elevated or appointed to serve a portion of a term to which  
18 some other person was elected but that person died in office  
19 or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,  
20 that portion of a term served shall not be included in the  
21 terms of service for purposes of this limitation if the person  
22 did not serve for at least one-half of the four-year term.  
23 This limitation on terms of service applies to terms of office  
24 beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

25 4. Section 22 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State  
26 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

27 **Secretary — auditor — treasurer.** SEC. 22. A secretary of  
28 state, an auditor of state, and a treasurer of state shall be  
29 elected by the qualified electors at the same time that the  
30 governor is elected and for a four-year term commencing on the  
31 first day of January next after their election, and they shall  
32 perform such duties as may be provided by law.

33 A person shall not be elected for a term as secretary of  
34 state if the term would result in the person serving more  
35 than a total of three consecutive terms in that office. A

1 person shall not be elected for a term as auditor of state  
2 if the term would result in the person serving more than a  
3 total of three consecutive terms in that office. A person  
4 shall not be elected for a term as treasurer of state if the  
5 term would result in the person serving more than a total of  
6 three consecutive terms in that office. If a person appointed  
7 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was  
8 elected, but that person died in office or resigned from office  
9 or was otherwise removed from office, that portion of a term  
10 served shall not be included in the terms of service for  
11 purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for at  
12 least one-half of the four-year term. This limitation on terms  
13 of service applies to terms of office beginning on or after  
14 January 1, 2021.

15 5. The Constitution of the State of Iowa is amended by  
16 adding the following new section to Article IV:

17 **Elected state executive officer — term limits.** SEC. 23. If  
18 the general assembly provides by law for the election of a  
19 state executive officer by the people, a person shall not be  
20 elected for a term to that office if the term would result in  
21 the person serving more than a total of twelve years in that  
22 office. If a person appointed to serve a portion of a term to  
23 which some other person was elected, but that person died in  
24 office or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from  
25 office, that portion of a term served shall not be included  
26 in the terms of service for purposes of this limitation if  
27 the person did not serve for at least one-half of the term of  
28 office. This limitation on terms of service applies to terms  
29 of office beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

30 6. Section 12 of Article V of the Constitution of the State  
31 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

32 **Attorney general.** SEC. 12. The general assembly shall  
33 provide, by law, for the election of an attorney general by the  
34 people, whose term of office shall be four years, and until his  
35 successor is elected and qualifies.

1 A person shall not be elected for a term as attorney general  
2 if the term would result in the person serving more than a  
3 total of three consecutive terms in that office. If a person  
4 appointed to serve a portion of a term to which some other  
5 person was elected, but that person died in office or resigned  
6 from office or was otherwise removed from office, that portion  
7 of a term served shall not be included in the terms of service  
8 for purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for  
9 at least one-half of the four-year term. This limitation on  
10 terms of service applies to terms of office beginning on or  
11 after January 1, 2021.

12 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment  
13 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the  
14 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election  
15 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of  
16 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three  
17 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as  
18 provided by law.

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
23 Constitution of the State of Iowa limiting terms of service  
24 for persons elected to the offices of representative or  
25 senator in the general assembly, governor, lieutenant governor,  
26 secretary of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state,  
27 attorney general, and any other elected state executive  
28 officer. The amendment provides that a member of the house  
29 of representatives shall not serve more than six consecutive  
30 terms as a representative, and that a member of the senate  
31 shall not serve more than three consecutive terms as a senator.  
32 The amendment provides that a person elected as governor,  
33 lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state,  
34 treasurer of state, or attorney general shall not serve more  
35 than three consecutive terms in that respective office. The

1 amendment also provides that if the general assembly provides  
2 for the election of a state executive officer, that the officer  
3 shall not serve more than 12 consecutive years in that office.

4 The amendment provides that if a person is elected,  
5 elevated, or appointed as applicable, to serve a portion of  
6 a term in these respective offices, the term shall not be  
7 included in counting terms of service if the person did not  
8 serve at least one-half of the full term. The amendment  
9 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
10 2021.

11 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
12 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the  
13 electorate for ratification.