

# Senate Joint Resolution 3 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3  
BY CHELGREN

## 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, the  
5 treasurer of state, the attorney general, and other elected  
6 state executive 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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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, 2023.

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23 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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, 2023.

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, 2023.

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, 2023.

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 office of a state  
19 executive officer elected by the people statewide, a person  
20 shall not be elected for a term to that office if the term  
21 would result in the person serving more than a total of twelve  
22 years in that office. If a person appointed to serve a portion  
23 of a term to which some other person was elected, but that  
24 person died in office or resigned from office or was otherwise  
25 removed from office, that portion of a term served shall not  
26 be included in the terms of service for purposes of this  
27 limitation if the person did not serve for at least one-half  
28 of the term of office. This limitation on terms of service  
29 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
30 2023.

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32 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

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

1 successor is elected and qualifies.

2 A person shall not be elected for a term as attorney general  
3 if the term would result in the person serving more than a  
4 total of three consecutive terms in that office. If a person  
5 appointed to serve a portion of a term to which some other  
6 person was elected, but that person died in office or resigned  
7 from office or was otherwise removed from office, that portion  
8 of a term served shall not be included in the terms of service  
9 for purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for  
10 at least one-half of the four-year term. This limitation on  
11 terms of service applies to terms of office beginning on or  
12 after January 1, 2023.

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

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
24 Constitution of the State of Iowa limiting terms of service for  
25 persons elected to the offices of representative or senator in  
26 the general assembly, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary  
27 of state, auditor of state, treasurer of state, attorney  
28 general, and any other statewide elected state executive  
29 officer.

30 The amendment provides that a member of the house of  
31 representatives shall not serve more than six consecutive terms  
32 as a representative, and that a member of the senate shall  
33 not serve more than three consecutive terms as a senator.  
34 The amendment provides that a person elected as governor,  
35 lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state,

1 treasurer of state, or attorney general shall not serve more  
2 than three consecutive terms in that respective office. The  
3 amendment also provides that if the general assembly provides  
4 for the election statewide of a state executive officer, that  
5 the officer shall not serve more than 12 consecutive years in  
6 that office.

7 The amendment provides that if a person is elected,  
8 elevated, or appointed as applicable, to serve a portion of  
9 a term in these respective offices, the term shall not be  
10 included in counting terms of service if the person did not  
11 serve at least one-half of the full term. The amendment  
12 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,  
13 2023.

14 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
15 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the  
16 electorate for ratification.