

Senate Joint Resolution 7 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

BY BERTRAND

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.

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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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. 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 five 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23 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment
5 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
6 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election
7 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of
8 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three
9 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
10 provided by law.

11

EXPLANATION

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

14 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
15 Constitution of the State of Iowa limiting terms of service
16 for persons elected to the office of representative or senator
17 in the general assembly. The amendment provides that a member
18 of the house of representatives shall not serve more than five
19 consecutive terms as a representative, and that a member of the
20 senate shall not serve more than three consecutive terms as a
21 senator.

22 The amendment provides that if a person is elected to serve
23 a portion of a term in these respective offices, the term shall
24 not be included in counting terms of service if the person did
25 not serve at least one-half of the full term. The amendment
26 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,
27 2023.

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