

Senate Joint Resolution 7 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7
BY CHAPMAN

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa limiting years of service for members
3 of the general assembly, the governor, and certain other
4 statewide elected officers.

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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 **Sec. 3. Representatives — term limitation.** The members of
6 the house of representatives shall be chosen every second year,
7 by the qualified electors of their respective districts, and
8 their term of office shall commence on the first day of January
9 next after their election, and continue two years, and until
10 their successors are elected and qualified. A person shall
11 not be elected for a term as representative if the term would
12 result in the person serving more than a total of four terms in
13 the house of representatives. 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
18 of this limitation if the person did not serve for at least
19 one-half of the term. This limitation on terms of service
20 applies to terms of office beginning on or after January 1,
21 2024, and for years of service occurring on or after January
22 1, 2024.

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24 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

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

1 in the terms of service for purposes of this limitation if
2 the person did not serve for at least one-half of the term.
3 This limitation on terms of service applies to terms of office
4 beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and for years of service
5 occurring on or after January 1, 2024.

6 Sec. 2. The following amendment to the Constitution of the
7 State of Iowa is proposed:

8 Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of
9 Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

10 Sec. 6. **Eligibility — term limitation.**

11 No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, or
12 lieutenant governor, who shall not have been a citizen of the
13 United States, and a resident of the state, two years next
14 preceding the election, and attained the age of thirty years
15 at the time of said election.

16 A person shall not be elected for a term as governor or
17 lieutenant governor if the term would result in the person
18 serving more than a total of three terms as governor or
19 lieutenant governor, respectively. If a person is elevated
20 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was
21 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office
22 or was otherwise removed from office, that portion of a term
23 served shall not be included in the terms of service for
24 purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for at
25 least one-half of the four-year term. This limitation on terms
26 of service applies to terms of office beginning on or after
27 January 1, 2024.

28 Sec. 3. The following amendment to the Constitution of the
29 State of Iowa is proposed:

30 Section 22 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of
31 Iowa, is repealed, and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

32 Sec. 22. **Secretary — auditor — treasurer.** A secretary of
33 state, an auditor of state, and a treasurer of state shall be
34 elected by the qualified electors at the same time that the
35 governor is elected and for a four-year term commencing on the

1 first day of January next after their election, and they shall
2 perform such duties as may be provided by law.

3 A person shall not be elected for a term as secretary of
4 state, auditor of state, or treasurer of state if the term
5 would result in the person serving more than a total of three
6 terms in that office. If a person is appointed to serve a
7 portion of a term to which some other person was elected but
8 that person died in office or resigned from office or was
9 otherwise removed from office, that portion of a term served
10 shall not be included in the terms of service for purposes
11 of this limitation if the person did not serve for at least
12 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, 2024.

15 Sec. 4. The following amendment to the Constitution of the
16 State of Iowa is proposed:

17 Section 12 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of
18 Iowa, is repealed, and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

19 Sec. 12. **Attorney general.** The general assembly shall
20 provide, by law, for the election of an attorney general by the
21 people, whose term of office shall be four years, and until
22 the attorney general's successor is elected and qualifies. A
23 person shall not be elected for a term as attorney general
24 if the term would result in the person serving more than a
25 total of three terms as the attorney general. If a person is
26 appointed to serve a portion of a term to which some other
27 person was elected but that person died in office or resigned
28 from office or was otherwise removed from office, that portion
29 of a term served shall not be included in the terms of service
30 for purposes of this limitation if the person did not serve for
31 at least one-half of the four-year term. This limitation on
32 terms of service applies to terms of office beginning on or
33 after January 1, 2024.

34 Sec. 5. **REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION.** The foregoing amendments
35 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa are referred to the

1 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election
2 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of
3 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three
4 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
5 provided by law.

6

EXPLANATION

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

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9 This joint resolution proposes four amendments to the
10 Constitution of the State of Iowa limiting years of service
11 for persons elected to the general assembly, the office of the
12 governor, and other statewide elected offices.

13 The first amendment provides that a person shall not be
14 elected for a term as a representative if the term would result
15 in the person serving more than four terms in the house of
16 representatives or elected for a term as a senator if the term
17 would result in the person serving more than two terms in the
18 senate. For the purposes of this limitation, a person shall
19 not be considered to have served a term if that person was
20 elected to serve a portion of a term if that person did not
21 serve at least one-half of the full term.

22 The second, third, and fourth proposed amendments provide
23 that a person shall not be elected for a term as governor,
24 lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of state,
25 treasurer of state, or attorney general, if the term would
26 result in the person serving more than three terms in that
27 office. For the purposes of this limitation, a person shall
28 not be considered to have served a term if that person was
29 elevated or appointed to serve a portion of a term if that
30 person did not serve at least one-half of the full term.

31 The amendments apply to terms of office beginning on or after
32 January 1, 2024, and for years of service occurring on or after
33 January 1, 2024.

34 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
35 general assembly for adoption before being submitted to the

1 electorate for ratification.