

Senate Joint Resolution 11 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11
BY WHITING

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the call of a convention for the
2 purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the
3 United States limiting the number of terms of office that
4 may be served by federal legislators.

5 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
6 provides that Congress must call a convention for the purpose
7 of proposing amendments to the Constitution upon application by
8 two-thirds of the states demanding such action; and

9 WHEREAS, the general assembly of Iowa is hereby joining with
10 other states in asserting rights and responsibilities under
11 Article V of the Constitution of the United States with regard
12 to proposing a congressional term limits amendment; and

13 WHEREAS, the average length of service in Congress continues
14 to rise which creates a detachment between the members and
15 their constituents, making the American people feel they are no
16 longer being listened to; and

17 WHEREAS, open-seat elections will allow for more people to
18 participate in the government from a variety of backgrounds
19 providing better representation and more options for the voters
20 on the ballots; and

21 WHEREAS, the general assembly of Iowa, a body of citizen
22 legislators, desires to restore rotation in office for members
23 serving in the Congress of the United States; NOW THEREFORE,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

25 That the general assembly, as the legislature of the state of
26 Iowa, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United
27 States, hereby applies to the Congress of the United States
28 to call a convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an
29 amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the
30 number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the
31 United States house of representatives and to set a limit on
32 the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of
33 the United States senate.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of the Iowa
35 senate transmit copies of this resolution to the president and
36 secretary of the United States senate, the speaker, clerk, and
37 judiciary committee chairperson of the United States house of
38 representatives, to each senator and representative from Iowa
39 in the Congress of the United States, and to the presiding
40 officers of each legislative body of each of the several
41 states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing
42 an application compelling Congress to call a convention for
43 proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution
44 of the United States.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application shall
46 be considered as covering the same subject matter as the
47 applications from other states to Congress to call a convention
48 to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be
49 elected to the United States house of representatives and the
50 United States senate; and this application shall be aggregated
51 with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds
52 of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited
53 convention on this subject, but shall not be aggregated with
54 any other applications on any other subject.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application constitutes
56 a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
57 Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at
58 least two-thirds of the several states have made applications
59 on the same subject.

1

EXPLANATION

2

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

3

4 This resolution constitutes a petition requesting the United
5 States Congress to call a convention for the exclusive purpose
6 of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
7 States proposing term limits for members of the United States
8 senate and house of representatives.

9 The resolution also provides that it shall serve as a
10 continuing application to call a convention, until at least
11 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have made
12 application for a similar convention and the convention is
13 convened by Congress. The resolution provides that it shall
14 not be aggregated with applications requesting that conventions
15 be called for other reasons.

16 The resolution also requires that the secretary of the Iowa
17 senate transmit copies of the resolution to the president and
18 secretary of the United States senate, to the speaker, clerk,
19 and judiciary committee chairperson of the United States house
20 of representatives, to each senator and representative from
21 Iowa in the Congress of the United States, and to the presiding
22 officers of each legislative body of each of the several
23 states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing
24 an application compelling Congress to call a convention for
25 proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution
26 of the United States.