

**House Joint Resolution 2002 - Introduced**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2002  
BY GEARHART

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
2 the State of Iowa altering the terms of service for members of  
3 the house of representatives.  
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of the  
2 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4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: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 — classification.** The members of  
6 the house of representatives shall be chosen on the first  
7 Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered  
8 year by the qualified electors of their respective districts,  
9 and their term of office shall commence on the first day of  
10 January next after their election, and continue four years, and  
11 until their successors are elected and qualified. Members of  
12 the house of representatives shall be classified so that as  
13 nearly as possible one-half of the members of the house of  
14 representatives shall be elected every two years, and each member  
15 of the house of representatives elected concurrently with the  
16 adoption of this amendment or serving at the time of the adoption  
17 of this amendment shall be so classified. Members representing  
18 odd-numbered districts shall constitute the first class, and  
19 members representing even-numbered districts shall constitute the  
20 second class. For those members of the house of representatives  
21 elected concurrently with the adoption of this amendment or  
22 serving at the time of the adoption of this amendment, those  
23 members of the house of representatives in the first class shall  
24 serve for two years following the first day of January next after  
25 the adoption of this amendment, and those in the second class  
26 shall serve for four years following the first day of January  
27 next after the adoption of this amendment.

28 2. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the State  
29 of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of the Amendments of  
30 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of 1904, and amendment  
31 number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is repealed and the following  
32 adopted in lieu thereof:

33 Sec. 35. **Senators and representatives — number and**  
34 **districts.** The general assembly shall in each year immediately  
35 following the United States decennial census determine the number

1 of senators and representatives to be elected to the general  
2 assembly and establish senatorial and representative districts.  
3 The general assembly shall complete the apportionment prior to  
4 September 1 of the year so required. If the apportionment fails  
5 to become law prior to September 15 of such year, the supreme  
6 court shall cause the state to be apportioned into senatorial  
7 and representative districts to comply with the requirements  
8 of the Constitution prior to December 31 of such year. The  
9 reapportioning authority shall, where necessary in establishing  
10 senatorial and representative districts, shorten the term of any  
11 senator or representative prior to completion of the term. Any  
12 senator or representative whose term is so terminated shall not  
13 be compensated for the uncompleted part of the term.

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

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 relating to terms of office for  
25 members of the house of representatives.

26 The amendment changes the terms of office for members of  
27 the house of representatives to four years, with members to be  
28 elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November  
29 of each even-numbered year, with one-half of all members to  
30 be elected every two years. The amendment provides that each  
31 member of the house of representatives who is serving at the  
32 time of adoption of the amendment or elected concurrently with  
33 the adoption of the amendment will be divided into two classes.  
34 The first class consists of members representing odd-numbered  
35 districts, and the second class consists of members representing

1 even-numbered districts. Members in the first class shall serve  
2 for two years and members in the second class shall serve for  
3 four years.

4 The joint resolution also states that the reapportioning  
5 authority shall have the authority to shorten the term of  
6 office of any senator or representative following redistricting  
7 as necessary in establishing senatorial and representative  
8 districts.

9 The resolution, if adopted, would be published and then  
10 referred to in the next general assembly for adoption, before  
11 being submitted to the electorate for ratification.

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