

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION
BY MULDER

2003

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office and
3 to limit the terms of office for members of the Senate and
4 House of Representatives.

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

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

STATE GOVERNMENT

STR 2003

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
4 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu
5 thereof:

6 REPRESENTATIVES. SEC. 3. The members of the House of
7 Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified electors of
8 their respective districts, and their term of office shall
9 commence on the first day of January following their election
10 which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, and continue four
11 years, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
12 Representatives shall be classified by statute so that as
13 nearly as possible one-half of the members of the House of
14 Representatives shall be elected every two years. A person
15 shall not be elected as a Representative more than three
16 consecutive times. If a person is elected or appointed to
17 serve a portion of a term to which some other person was
18 elected or appointed but that person died in office or
19 resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,
20 those years served shall not be included in the terms of
21 office.

22 The phase-in of the four-year term shall only apply to
23 terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The
24 limitation on the number of terms shall only apply to
25 Representatives elected for the first time as a Representative
26 for a term of office beginning on or after January 1, 2011.
27 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law
28 governing the year of election and terms of office of
29 Representatives as shall be necessary to make the year of
30 their election and terms of office conform to this amendment.

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32 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu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

34 SENATORS -- QUALIFICATIONS. SEC. 5. Senators shall be
35 chosen for a term of six years, at the same time and place as

1 Representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and
2 possess the qualifications of Representatives as to residence
3 and citizenship. A person shall not be elected as a Senator
4 more than two consecutive times. If a person who is elected
5 or appointed to serve a portion of a term to which some other
6 person was elected or appointed but that person died in office
7 or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,
8 those years served shall not be included in the terms of
9 office.

10 The phase-in of the six-year term shall only apply to terms
11 of office beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The
12 limitation on the number of terms shall only apply to Senators
13 elected for the first time as a Senator for a term of office
14 beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The General Assembly
15 shall make such changes in the law governing the year of
16 election and terms of office of Senators as shall be necessary
17 to make the year of their election and terms of office conform
18 to this amendment.

19 3. Section 6 of Article III of the Constitution of the
20 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 3 of the
21 Amendments of 1968, is repealed and the following adopted in
22 lieu thereof:

23 SENATORS -- NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION. SEC. 6. The number
24 of Senators shall total not more than one-half the membership
25 of the House of Representatives. Senators shall be classified
26 by statute so that as nearly as possible one-third of the
27 members of the Senate shall be elected every two years.

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

34 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES -- NUMBER AND DISTRICTS. SEC.
35 35. The General Assembly shall in each year immediately

1 following the United States decennial census determine the
2 number of Senators and Representatives to be elected to the
3 General Assembly and establish Senatorial and Representative
4 districts. The General Assembly shall complete the
5 apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.
6 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September 15
7 of such year, the Supreme Court shall cause the State to be
8 apportioned into Senatorial and Representative districts to
9 comply with the requirements of the Constitution prior to
10 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,
11 where necessary in establishing Senatorial and Representative
12 districts, shorten the term of any Senator or Representative
13 prior to completion of the term. Any Senator or
14 Representative whose term is so terminated shall not be
15 compensated for the uncompleted part of the term.

16 Sec. 2. PUBLICATION AND REFERRAL. The foregoing amendment
17 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
18 General Assembly to be chosen at the next general election for
19 members of the General Assembly and the Secretary of State is
20 directed to cause the same to be published for three
21 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
22 provided by law.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
25 Constitution of the State of Iowa to change the term of office
26 of members of the Iowa house of representatives to four years
27 and the term of office of members of the Iowa senate to six
28 years. The resolution also provides that members of the Iowa
29 house of representatives shall not be elected more than three
30 consecutive times, and members of the Iowa senate shall not be
31 elected more than two consecutive times. The phase-in of the
32 four-year and six-year terms shall only apply to terms of
33 office beginning on or after January 1, 2011. The limitation
34 on the number of terms shall only apply to representatives or
35 senators elected for the first time as a representative or as

1 a senator for a term of office beginning on or after January
2 1, 2011.

3 The joint resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the
4 next general assembly before being submitted to the electorate
5 for ratification.

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35