



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 378

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 13

Senate, April 3, 2000

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. BOZEK of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute joint resolution ought to be adopted.

Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution Concerning Four-Year Terms For Members Of The General Assembly.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and
4 purposes, become a part thereof:

5 Section 1. Section 8 of article third of the Constitution is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 A general election for members of the general assembly shall be
8 held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November, biennially, in
9 the even-numbered years. Starting with the general election held in
10 2002, members of the general assembly shall be elected to hold office
11 for terms of four years, except that in the general election held in 2010,

12 and in every fifth general election thereafter, members of the general
13 assembly shall be elected to hold office for terms of two years. The
14 general assembly shall have power to enact laws regulating and
15 prescribing the order and manner of voting for such members, for
16 filling vacancies in either the house of representatives or the senate,
17 and providing for the election of representatives or senators at [some]
18 a time subsequent to the Tuesday after the first Monday of November
19 in all cases when it shall so happen that the electors in any district shall
20 fail on that day to elect a representative or senator.

21 Sec. 2. Section 10 of article third of the Constitution is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 The members of the general assembly shall hold their offices from
24 the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January next
25 succeeding their election until the Wednesday after the first Monday of
26 the third January next succeeding their election for two-year terms or
27 until the Wednesday after the first Monday of the fifth January next
28 succeeding their election for four-year terms, and until their successors
29 are duly qualified.

30 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
31 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
32 elected at the general election to be held on November 7, 2000, and
33 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
34 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 7, 2000,
35 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
36 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
37 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and
38 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
39 State be amended to provide for two four-year terms and one two-year
40 term during each ten-year period for members of the General
41 Assembly?"

GAE Committee Vote: Yea 12 Nay 9 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Minimal Cost

Affected Agencies: The Office of the Secretary of State, Legislative Management

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment establishing four year terms, instead of two-year terms of office, for members of the General Assembly. It is anticipated that the Office of the Secretary of State will be able to cover the costs associated with printing the explanation of the proposed constitutional amendment, and the required posters within the anticipated budgetary resources of the agency.

The approval of the resolution's amendment to the constitution by the voters would result in four year terms of office for legislators, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to Legislative Management.

Municipal Impact:

Since most of the materials, which municipalities will use for

consideration of the constitutional amendment, will be provided by the State, passage of this bill is not expected to result in any immediate additional costs beyond those which municipalities typically incur during a general election.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSJ 13

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**SUMMARY:**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment establishing four-year terms of office, instead of two-year terms, for members of the General Assembly. To accommodate legislative redistricting, which must occur every 10 years, it creates a method for electing all legislators at the first election after the new reapportionment plan is adopted.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to provide for two four-year terms and one two-year term during each ten-year period for members of the General Assembly?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house, it will be placed on the ballot in the 2000 general election. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2001 session of the General Assembly. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the general election ballot in 2002. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

FOUR-YEAR TERMS AND REAPPORTIONMENT

Under the resolution, the change to four-year terms begins with the 2002 election (see COMMENT). Legislators would run again in 2006 for a four-year term. In 2010 and every 10 years thereafter, they would run for a two-year term. Members would run again in 2012 for a four-year term, after the reapportionment plan is adopted.

COMMENT***Effective Date***

Under the resolution, legislators would be elected to four-year terms at the 2002 election, but that could be before the resolution is adopted by the voters and certified. If the resolution receives only a simple majority vote and must be submitted to the 2001 General Assembly, it will not go to the voters for approval until the 2002 state election.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 9