

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 4

Senate, April 2, 1998. The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd DIST., Chairman 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 STAGGERED FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1 Resolved by this Assembly:

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

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

9 A general election for members of the general
10 assembly shall be held on the Tuesday after the
11 first Monday of November, biennially, in the
12 even-numbered years. STARTING WITH THE GENERAL
13 ELECTION HELD IN 2002, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY SHALL BE ELECTED TO HOLD OFFICE FOR TERMS
15 OF FOUR YEARS, EXCEPT THAT (1) IN THE GENERAL
16 ELECTION HELD IN 2002, AND IN EVERY FIFTH GENERAL
17 ELECTION THEREAFTER, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY FROM EVEN-NUMBERED DISTRICTS SHALL BE
19 ELECTED TO HOLD OFFICE FOR TERMS OF TWO YEARS, AND
20 (2) IN THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD IN 2010, AND IN
21 EVERY FIFTH GENERAL ELECTION THEREAFTER, MEMBERS
22 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ODD-NUMBERED
23 DISTRICTS SHALL BE ELECTED TO HOLD OFFICE FOR

24 TERMS OF TWO YEARS. The general assembly shall
25 have power to enact laws regulating and
26 prescribing the order and manner of voting for
27 such members, for filling vacancies in either the
28 house of representatives or the senate, and
29 providing for the election of representatives or
30 senators at [some] A time subsequent to the
31 Tuesday after the first Monday of November in all
32 cases when it shall so happen that the electors in
33 any district shall fail on that day to elect a
34 representative or senator.

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

37 The members of the general assembly shall
38 hold their offices from the Wednesday following
39 the first Monday of the January next succeeding
40 their election until the Wednesday after the first
41 Monday of the third January next succeeding their
42 election FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS OR UNTIL THE WEDNESDAY
43 AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE FIFTH JANUARY NEXT
44 SUCCEEDING THEIR ELECTION FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS, and
45 until their successors are duly qualified.

46 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed
47 amendment to the Constitution be continued to the
48 next session of the General Assembly elected at
49 the general election to be held on November 3,
50 1998, and published with the laws passed at the
51 present session, or be presented to the electors
52 at the general election to be held on November 3,
53 1998, whichever the case may be, according to
54 article sixth of the amendments to the
55 Constitution. The designation of said proposed
56 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot
57 labels and absentee ballots at such election shall
58 be "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended
59 to provide for four-year staggered terms for
60 members of the General Assembly?"

61 GAE COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 11 NAY 3 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSJ 4

STATE IMPACT Minimal Cost, see explanation below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT None, see explanation below

STATE AGENCY(S) Secretary of the State,
Legislative Management

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: It is anticipated that the Secretary of the State will be able to cover the costs associated with printing the explanation of the proposed constitutional amendments, and the required posters within the anticipated budgetary resources.

Duties of the legislative staff are viewed as part of their regular employment activities, therefore, the passage of this resolution is not expected to have a fiscal impact on Legislative Management.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: Since the materials that are needed for a constitutional amendment are supplied by the State, the passage of this resolution will not have a fiscal impact on municipalities.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSJ 4

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION CONCERNING STAGGERED FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY: This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment establishing staggered four-year terms, instead of two-year terms of office 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 change to four-year terms would occur for members in odd-numbered districts elected in 2002 and for those in even-numbered districts in 2004.

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 four-year staggered terms 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 1998 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 1999 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 2000. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves the amendment, it will become part of the state constitution.

FURTHER EXPLANATION**Four-Year Terms and Reapportionment**

Under the resolution, the change to four-year terms begins with the 2002 election. Members representing even-numbered districts would be elected for two-year terms, then two four-year terms. Members from odd-numbered districts would be elected for two four-year terms, then a two-year term. Under this system, all members of the General Assembly would be

elected the year after the reapportionment plan is adopted (in 2002, 2012, 2022, etc.) when legislative district boundaries change. In these elections, members from odd-numbered districts would be elected for four-year terms, and members from even-numbered districts would be elected for two-year terms.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 11 Nay 3