LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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J.S. McCarthy Company
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CHAPTER 2
I.B. 2 - L.D. 1983

An Act to Impose Term Limits on Members of the United States Congress

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

 Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA c. 5, sub-c. VI is enacted to read:

 SUBCHAPTER VI
CANDIDATES FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES SENATE

§421. Limitations on candidates for Congress: the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate

1. Short title. This Act may be known and cited as the "Maine Congressional Term Limitations Act of 1994."

2. Purpose and intent. The People of the State of Maine declare their purpose and intent in enacting this legislation to be as follows:

A. To prevent potential corruption in office by limiting the number of terms Representatives and Senators may hold the same office.

B. To preserve the integrity of the ballot by limiting the corrupting influence and dominance of special interests upon entrenched incumbents.

C. To defend their right to stand for and hold public office by encouraging a larger selection of candidates, and by curtailing the effects of entrenched incumbency, which discourages competitive elections, particularly in primaries.

D. To protect and defend their right to equal protection of the laws by giving more citizens of this state the opportunity to stand for and hold public office.

E. To ensure that those who are elected to Congress will return to private life to live in this state under the laws they have made while serving in Congress.

3. Ballot access. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State, or other election official authorized by law, may not accept or verify the signatures on any nomination paper for any person or certify, place on the list of certified candidates or print or cause to be printed on any ballot, ballot pamphlet, sample ballot or ballot label the name of any person who:

A. Seeks to become a candidate for a seat in the United States House of Representatives and who has served, or but for resignation would have served, as a member of the United States House of Representatives representing any portion or district of this State during 6 or more of the previous 11 years; or

B. Seeks to become a candidate for a seat in the United States Senate and who has served, or but for resignation would have served, as a member of the United States Senate representing the State during 12 or more of the previous 17 years.

4. Construction. The provisions of this section must be construed as follows:

A. This section may not be construed to prevent or prohibit a qualified voter of this State from casting a ballot for any person by writing the name of that person on the ballot or from having such a ballot counted or tabulated.

B. This section may not be construed to prevent or prohibit a person from standing or campaigning for any elective office by means of a write-in campaign.

C. This section may not be construed to prevent or prohibit the name of any person from appearing on the ballot at any direct primary or general election unless that person's name is specifically prohibited from appearing on that ballot by the provisions of subsection 3 and to that end subsection 3 must be strictly construed.

Sec. 2. Application. This Act applies to federal congressional candidates whose terms of office begin on or after January 1, 1995. Service in the
United States Congress prior to January 1, 1994 may not be counted for the purposes of this Act.

This section does not preclude or prohibit a person from seeking nomination or election to any other office for which a term limit or ballot access restriction is not applicable.