

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 7, 1994 to June 30, 1995**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 1995**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1995**

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**INITIATED BILL**  
**REFERRED TO THE VOTERS BY**  
**THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**AND APPROVED AT REFERENDUM**

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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 lim-  
iting 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 en-  
trenched incumbency, which discourages com-  
petitive 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 Con-  
gress 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 candi-  
dates 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 pre-  
vious 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 campaign-  
ing 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 appear-  
ing 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 sub-  
section 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.

Effective December 31, 1994.

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