

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1014

H.P. 737

House of Representatives, April 3, 1989

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HANLEY of Paris.

Cosponsored by Representative HEPBURN of Skowhegan, Senator WEBSTER of Franklin and Representative GARLAND of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act Concerning the Number of Terms Which a Legislator May
Serve Consecutively in Either Chamber.



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

3 **3 MRSA §2**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. KK, §1, is
5 further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

7 Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives
9 may serve no more than 5 consecutive terms in each chamber.

11 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

13 There has been a precipitous increase in the level of
15 legislative budgets in Maine over the past decade. These
17 elevated appropriations have funded a number of services for
19 incumbents including mass-mailings, unlimited in-state telephone
use, computerized mailing lists, more legislative staff, press
assistants, nationwide travel and accommodations at conferences
and a plethora of off-session study committees.

21 The unfortunate by-product of this outlay of taxpayers'
23 dollars is that an army of legislative incumbents who are
25 virtually politically invincible has been created, making the
27 probability of the average Maine citizen conducting a successful
campaign against an incumbent of either party virtually nil. In
the last 2 legislative elections, for example, Maine Legislators
who have chosen to seek reelection have enjoyed a success rate of
over 90%.

29 This bill limits the consecutive terms a Senator or
31 Representative could serve to 5 consecutive terms in each chamber.