

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 901

2 DATE: 6-4-01

(Filing No. H-674)

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10 **STATE OF MAINE**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 **120TH LEGISLATURE**
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

14
16 HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 697, L.D. 901, Bill, "An Act to
Amend the Laws Governing Term Limits"

18 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting
20 clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the
following:

22 'Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§§1 and 2, as enacted by I.B.
24 1993, c. 1, §1 and affected by §2, are amended to read:

26 1. **State Senate.** A person may not serve more than 4
consecutive terms as a state Senator, except that, beginning with
28 consecutive terms of office the first term of which starts on or
after December 4, 2002, a person may not serve more than 6
consecutive terms as a state Senator.

30 2. **State Representative.** A person may not serve more than
32 4 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of
Representatives, except that, beginning with consecutive terms of
34 office the first term of which starts on or after December 4,
2002, a person may not serve more than 6 consecutive terms as a
36 member of the House of Representatives.

38 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide**
40 **election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted
to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election
42 held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November 2002.
The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants
44 of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the
manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to
46 vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the
following question:

"Do you want to increase the number of consecutive terms for state Legislators from 4 to 6 terms?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.'

FISCAL NOTE

This amendment changes the timing of sending this measure out to referendum from November 2001 to November 2002.

The estimated cost of sending this measure out to referendum will vary according to the total number of referenda to be submitted to the voters in November 2002. The estimated cost to the Secretary of State if one to 6 referenda are enacted is \$121,392. Each additional referendum costs an additional \$8,000.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. Under this amendment:

1. The provisions of the bill increasing the length of term limits for constitutional officers and the State Auditor are eliminated;

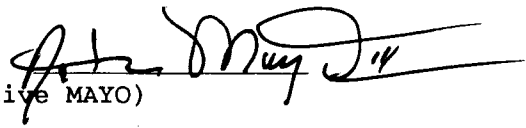
2. The provisions of the bill extending the limit on terms for state Legislators are retained. This amendment clarifies that the increase in term limits from 4 to 6 terms applies to consecutive terms for state Senators and members of the state House of Representatives that begin in the 121st Legislature; and

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3. The referendum question is amended to apply only to state Legislators.

SPONSORED BY: 
(Representative MAYO)

TOWN: Bath

HOUSE AMENDMENT