

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

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

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

1. State Senate. A person may not serve more than 4 consecutive terms as a state Senator, except that, beginning December 4, 2002, a person may not serve more than 6 consecutive terms as a state Senator. A person whose 4th consecutive term ends in the 120th Legislature may not serve as a Senator in the 121st Legislature.

2. State Representative. A person may not serve more than 4 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of Representatives, except that, beginning December 4, 2002, a person may not serve more than 6 consecutive terms as a member of the House of Representatives. A person whose 4th consecutive term ends in the 120th Legislature may not serve as a member of the House of Representatives in the 121st Legislature.

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

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

4 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
6 vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
8 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received,
sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
10 meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same
12 manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of
14 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.

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

20 **FISCAL NOTE**

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

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

32 **SUMMARY**

34 This amendment replaces the bill. Under this amendment:

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

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

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2 unless the person's 4th consecutive term ended in the 120th
Legislature; and

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

8
10 SPONSORED BY: DATE F. Mayo
(Representative MAYO)

12 TOWN: Bath

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