

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 901

H.P. 697

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Term Limits.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset, Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec and
Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, COLWELL of Gardiner,
HEIDRICH of Oxford, LABRECQUE of Gorham, MAYO of Bath, Speaker SAXL of
Portland, Senator: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin.

2
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §553**, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and
5 affected by §2, is amended to read:

6 **§553. Limitations on terms**

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, consecutive
8 terms in office are limited as follows.

9
10 **1. State Senate.** A person may not serve more than -4- 6
11 consecutive terms as a state Senator.

12
13 **2. State Representative.** A person may not serve more
14 than -4- 6 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of
15 Representatives.

16
17 **3. Secretary of State.** A person may not serve more
18 than -4- 6 consecutive terms as Secretary of State.

19
20 **4. Treasurer of State.** A person may not serve more
21 than -4- 6 consecutive terms as Treasurer of State.

22
23 **5. Attorney General.** A person may not serve more than -4-
24 6 consecutive terms as Attorney General.

25
26 **6. State Auditor.** A person may not serve more than -2- 3
27 consecutive terms as State Auditor.

28
29 This section applies to terms of office that begin on or
30 after December 3 4, ~~1996~~ 2002.

31
32 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide
33 election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted
34 to the legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election
35 held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November
36 following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this
37 State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities,
38 towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law
39 for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or
40 rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

41
42 "Do you favor increasing term limits to 12 years for elected
43 officials and constitutional officers?"

44
45 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
46 vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
47 by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
48 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received,

2 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same
4 manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of
6 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.

8
10 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.

12
14 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill extends the number of years of service authorized
under the term limits law from 8 to 12 years for Legislators, the
18 Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney
General and from 8 to 12 years for the State Auditor. The bill
20 also requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at
the statewide election held in the year 2001.

22