

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1273

H.P. 945

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

An Act To Extend 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 PINGREE of North Haven.
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, CANAVAN of Waterville, CLARK of
Millinocket, FISCHER of Presque Isle, MILLS of Cornville, RICHARDSON of Brunswick,
Senators: HATCH of Somerset, MAYO of Sagadahoc.

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 1, 1996 2004.

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

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

45
46 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
47 vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
48 cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below

2 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
3 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
4 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
5 votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review
6 the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes
7 are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that
8 fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30 days after the
9 date of the proclamation.

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

14 SUMMARY

16 This bill extends the number of years of service authorized
17 under the term limits law from 8 to 12 for Legislators, the
18 Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney
19 General and from 8 to 12 for the State Auditor. The bill also
20 requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at the
21 statewide election held in the year 2003.