

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 291

H.P. 216

House of Representatives, January 18, 2005

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 BISHOP of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset, Senator MAYO of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: HOTHAM of Dixfield, PATRICK of Rumford, SAVIELLO of Wilton,
Senator: DOW of Lincoln.

2 **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
affected by §2, is amended to read:

6 **§553. Limitations on terms**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 ~~This section applies to terms of office that begin on or~~
32 ~~after December 3, 1996.~~

34 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide**
election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted
36 to the legal voters of the State at a statewide election held on
the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following
38 passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall
notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
40 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:

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

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

2 the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
4 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
6 and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as
8 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.

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

14 SUMMARY

16 This bill extends the number of years of service authorized
18 under the term limits law from 8 to 12 for Legislators, the
Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney
20 General and from 8 to 12 for the State Auditor. The bill also
22 requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at the
statewide election to be held in the year 2005.