

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.018

L.D. 496

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DATE: 1-10-06

(Filing No. H-733)

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
122ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 371, L.D. 496, Bill, "An Act To Extend Term Limits"

Amend the amendment by striking out the substitute title and replacing it with the following:

'An Act To Amend the Law Concerning Term Limits'

Further amend the amendment by striking out everything after the 2nd indented paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

PART A

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

§553. Limitations on terms

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

1. State Senate. A person may not serve more than -4- 8 consecutive terms as a state Senator.

2. State Representative. A person may not serve more than -4- 8 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of Representatives.

**R.019**

2           **3. Secretary of State.** A person may not serve more than 4  
consecutive terms as Secretary of State.

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

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

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12           **6. State Auditor.** A person may not serve more than 2  
consecutive terms as State Auditor.

14           This section applies to terms of office that begin on or  
16           after December 3, 1996, except that, beginning December 1, 2008,  
a person may not serve more than 8 consecutive terms as a state  
Senator or as a member of the state House of Representatives.

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**PART B**

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22           **Sec. B-1. 21-A MRSa §553, sub-§1,** as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1,  
§1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

24           **Sec. B-2. 21-A MRSa §553, sub-§2,** as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1,  
§1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

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**PART C**

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30           **Sec. C-1. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at general**  
**election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted  
32           to the legal voters of the State at the next general election in  
the month of November following passage of this Act. The  
34           municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of  
their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the  
36           manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to  
vote on one of the following questions:

38           Question A: "Do you favor increasing term limits to 16  
years for Legislators?"

40           Question B: "Do you favor repealing term limits for  
42           Legislators?"

44           Question C: "Do you favor retaining the existing law that  
establishes term limits of 8 years for Legislators?"

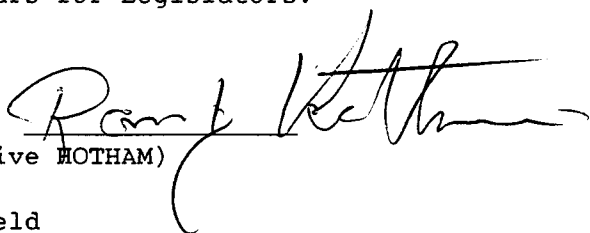
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48           The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall  
vote by ballot on these questions and designate their choice for  
or against only one of the questions by a cross or check mark  
50           placed within a corresponding square 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. If it appears that a plurality of the legal votes are cast in favor of Question A, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and Part A of this Act takes effect 30 days after the date of the proclamation. If it appears that a plurality of the legal votes are cast in favor of Question B, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and Part B of this Act takes effect 30 days after the date of the proclamation. If it appears that a plurality of votes are cast in favor of Question C, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and neither Part A nor Part B of this Act takes effect.'

### SUMMARY

This amendment presents 3 questions to the voters of the State to vote on at the general election held in the year 2006. The first question is whether the voters wish to extend the number of years of service authorized under the term limits law from 8 to 16 for Legislators. The 2nd question is whether the voters wish to repeal term limits for state Senators and members of the House of Representatives. The 3rd question is whether the voters wish to retain the existing law that establishes term limits of 8 years for Legislators.

SPONSORED BY:   
(Representative ROTHAM)

TOWN: Dixfield