

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 496

H.P. 371

House of Representatives, February 1, 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 CANAVAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Representative PARADIS of Frenchville, Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: BROWN of South Berwick, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DUDLEY of Portland,
DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, HOTHAM of Dixfield, MAKAS of Lewiston, MARLEY of
Portland, PINEAU of Jay.

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 than
16 4- 6 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of
Representatives.

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

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

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

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

30 This section applies to terms of office that begin on or
32 after December 3, 1996 except that beginning with December 1,
2008, a person may not serve more than 6 consecutive terms as a
34 state Senator or as a member of the state House of
Representatives.

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

46 "Do you favor increasing term limits to 12 years for
48 Legislators?"

2 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a
4 cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below
the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted,
6 counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings
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
10 are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that
fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30 days after the
12 date of the proclamation.

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

18 SUMMARY

20 This bill extends the number of years of service authorized
under the term limits law from 8 to 12 for Legislators. The bill
22 also requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at
the statewide election held in the year 2005.