

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5.27.05

(Filing No. S-278)

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Reported by:

MAJORITY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 180, L.D. 572, Bill, "An Act To Eliminate Term Limits in the Legislature"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

1. State Senator. A person may not serve more than 4 consecutive terms as a state Senator, except that, beginning December 3, 2006, a person elected to that person's first nonconsecutive term as state Senator may serve an unlimited number of terms.

2. State Representative. A person may not serve more than 4 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of Representatives, except that, beginning December 3, 2006, a person elected to that person's first nonconsecutive term as a member of the state House of Representatives may serve an unlimited number of terms.

Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at general election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at the general election in the month of November in 2006. The municipal

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and 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:

"Do you favor repealing term limits for Legislators who are elected to their first term in November 2006?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark 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 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.

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 purposes of this referendum.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It repeals term limits for Legislators who serve their first nonconsecutive term beginning December 3, 2006. The amendment also requires that the voters of the State vote on this matter at the general election held in 2006.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 572

LR 0278(02)

An Act To Eliminate Term Limits in the Legislature

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Referendum Costs

Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
Nov-05	General	Referendum	Standard

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions increases the ballot length, an additional appropriation of \$8,000 or more may be required.