

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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No. 1550

H.P. 1075

House of Representatives, March 20, 2007

An Act To Amend the Term Limitation Laws for State Legislators

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative VALENTINO of Saco.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §21-A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 403, §1 and affected by §3, is
3 amended to read:

4 **§21-A. President of Senate; term limitation**

5 A person may not serve as President of the Senate for more than ~~3~~ 2 consecutive
6 ~~legislative bienniums~~ Legislatures. Service in that capacity before December ~~2~~ 3, ~~1992~~
7 2008 is not included in the calculation of years served.

8 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §41-A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 403, §2 and affected by §3, is
9 amended to read:

10 **§41-A. Speaker of House of Representatives; term limitation**

11 A person may not serve as Speaker of the House of Representatives for more than ~~3~~ 2
12 consecutive ~~legislative bienniums~~ Legislatures. Service in that capacity before December
13 ~~2~~ 3, ~~1992~~ 2008 is not included in the calculation of years served.

14 **Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§1**, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and affected
15 by §2, is repealed.

16 **Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§2**, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and affected
17 by §2, is repealed.

18 **Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

19 **2-A. State Legislators. Beginning with terms of office that begin on or after**
20 **December 3, 2008, a person may not serve:**

21 **A. More than 4 consecutive terms as a state Senator;**

22 **B. More than 4 consecutive terms as a member of the House of Representatives; and**

23 **C. More than 8 cumulative terms as a state Legislator regardless of whether the**
24 **terms served are in one chamber or both.**

25 **Sec. 6. Contingent effective date.** This Act takes effect only if a resolution
26 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine takes effect to increase terms for
27 Senators and members of the House of Representatives from 2 years to 4 years beginning
28 with the general election held in 2008.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill affects term limits for Legislators in the following ways and is contingent
31 upon a constitutional amendment's being adopted and ratified at referendum to increase
32 the number of years for a legislative term from 2 to 4.

1 1. Legislators would have a lifetime cumulative limit of 8 terms regardless of where
2 those terms are serve. The limit on 4 consecutive terms in one chamber would remain
3 intact, thereby requiring a break in service to return to service in the same chamber for a
4 5th term.

5 2. The limits for serving as President of the Senate and Speaker of the House would
6 be 2 consecutive Legislatures.