

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No.1928

H.P. 1367

House of Representatives, June 15, 2007

An Act To Extend from 4 to 6 Terms the Limits on Legislative Terms

Reported by the Majority from the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2007, H.P. 1357.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

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

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

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

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

10 **Sec. 3. Application.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A,
11 section 553, subsections 1 and 2, a person elected to serve a 4th consecutive term as a
12 state Senator in the 123rd Legislature is ineligible to serve as a state Senator in the 124th
13 Legislature, and a person elected to serve a 4th consecutive term as a member of the state
14 House of Representatives in the 123rd Legislature is ineligible to serve as a member of
15 the state House of Representatives in the 124th Legislature.

16 **Sec. 4. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at election; form of**
17 **question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at
18 a statewide election held in the month of November following the passage of this Act.
19 The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities,
20 towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
21 election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following
22 question:

23 "Do you favor extending term limits for Legislators from 4 to 6 terms?"

24 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
25 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
26 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
27 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
28 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
29 review the returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the
30 Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days
31 after the date of the proclamation.

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

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill extends term limits for Legislators from 4 to 6 terms. Under the bill, the
37 extension of allowable terms does not apply to members of the Legislature who are
38 currently serving a 4th consecutive term as a Senator or as a member of the House of

1 Representatives. This bill requires that the proposed alteration in the law governing term
2 limits be submitted to the voters for approval.

