

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 31

H.P. 26

House of Representatives, January 5, 2009

An Act To Amend the Legislative Term Limit Laws

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Cumberland and
Representatives: BROWNE of Vassalboro, CONNOR of Kennebunk, EBERLE of South
Portland, JONES of Mount Vernon, MAZUREK of Rockland, PILON of Saco, TRINWARD
of Waterville, Senator: BRYANT of Oxford.

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 consecutive terms as a state
5 Senator, except that, beginning with terms of office that begin on or after December 1,
6 2010, a person may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a state Senator.

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

9 **2. State Representative.** A person may not serve more than 4 consecutive terms as
10 a member of the state House of Representatives, except that, beginning with terms of
11 office that begin on or after December 1, 2010, a person may not serve more than 2
12 consecutive terms as a member of the state House of Representatives.

13 **Sec. 3. Contingent effective date.** This Act takes effect only if a resolution
14 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine takes effect to increase the length
15 of terms for Senators and members of the House of Representatives from 2 years to 4
16 years beginning with the general election held in 2010.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 Current law governing term limits restricts state Senators and members of the state
19 House of Representatives to 4 consecutive 2-year terms. This bill provides that, if a
20 constitutional amendment is adopted and ratified at referendum to increase the length of a
21 legislative term from 2 years to 4 years, the number of permissible consecutive terms
22 would decrease to 2.

23