

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Amend the Term Limitation Laws for State Legislators

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

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

§ 21-A. President of Senate; term limitation

A person may not serve as President of the Senate for more than 32 consecutive legislative bienniumsLegislatures. Service in that capacity before December 23, 19922008 is not included in the calculation of years served.

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

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

A person may not serve as Speaker of the House of Representatives for more than 32 consecutive legislative bienniumsLegislatures. Service in that capacity before December 23, 19922008 is not included in the calculation of years served.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§1, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §553, sub-§2, as enacted by IB 1993, c. 1, §1 and affected by §2, is repealed.

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

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

- A. More than 4 consecutive terms as a state Senator;
- B. More than 4 consecutive terms as a member of the House of Representatives; and
- C. More than 8 cumulative terms as a state Legislator regardless of whether the terms served are in one chamber or both.

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

SUMMARY

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

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

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