



Richard Bradstreet  
Senator, District 15

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1454, "AN ACT TO REDEFINE "TERM" IN THE LAW GOVERNING  
TERM LIMITS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES."**

**The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**

**Public Hearing**

April 16, 2025

1:35pm

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and esteemed members of the  
Committee on State and Local Government:

I am Senator Dick Bradstreet; I Represent District 15, Augusta, Belgrade, China,  
Mount Vernon, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here today to present to you LD 1454,  
*An Act to Redefine "Term" in the Law Governing Term Limits for Constitutional  
Offices.*

First, I need to point out to you that this bill includes not only our  
Constitutional Officers, but that of State Auditor as well. LD 1454 was initiated  
when a constituent approached me about sponsoring legislation that would bring  
state statute more in line with the spirit of our laws regarding term limits for  
Constitutional offices. After I looked at his proposal, I decided it was certainly  
worth pursuing, and so we are here today.

Currently, an individual occupying one of these offices can conceivably  
serve for up to 11-1/2 years straight while the original intent was to limit the term  
to two 4 year terms. This can occur when a person starts serving a partial term due  
to the office becoming unoccupied complete up to 3-1/2 years of the unexpired  
term and then finish with another two 4 year terms. This occurs when there are  
two odd numbered years in the term where the third Wednesday in June lies within

a term. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of June in an odd numbered year is currently the cutoff. The original version of this bill was to make the cutoff date the second-to-last calendar year in which the month of June lies within the term, but as you can tell, this is very wordy and hard to follow. Primarily due to this confusing language, the Revisors office and I opted to alter the proposal to change the earliest starting point of a partial term for purposes of term limits to the first Wednesday in December in an odd numbered year – the rationale being that it would be easier to understand and that the date would be a bit more consistent with the laws governing term limits for legislators.

I believe there is someone testifying after me who will help clarify this for you. Although this proposal is not exactly what he was requesting, I do believe the bill will lend itself to serious consideration by the committee in changing current statute to better reflect the original, and I would add current spirit of the law regarding term limits for our Constitutional Offices and State Auditor.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer questions