House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to revise terms of state senators and state representatives and revise limits on the period for which a person may be elected as a state senator or state representative.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendments to Section 15 of Article III and Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution are agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.—

(a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for staggered terms of six four years. The legislature must divide the senate districts as evenly as possible into three classes, those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of
four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms.

(b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of representatives shall be elected for terms of four years, those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four in each even-numbered year.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least twenty-one years of age and an elector and resident of the district from which elected and shall have resided in the state for a period of two years prior to election.

(d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in legislative office shall be filled only by election as provided by law.

ARTICLE VI

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, is not shall be qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil rights or removal of disability.

(b) No person may not appear on the ballot for reelection as a senator or representative if, by the end of the
current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for
resignation, would have served) in that office for twelve
consecutive years. Re-election to any of the following offices:

(1) Florida representative,
(2) Florida senator,
(c) A person may not appear on the ballot for
reelection to the office of Florida lieutenant governor,
(4) any office of the Florida cabinet, or the
office of
(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
(6) U.S. Senator from Florida
if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will
have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that
office for eight consecutive years.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE
Implementation of amendments relating to the terms of
certain elected officials.—
(a) The amendments to Section 15 of Article III and
Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of this section shall
take effect upon approval by the electors.
(b) During the organization session following the 2014
general election, the legislature shall implement the amendment
to Section 15(a) of Article III by law. Under the implementing
legislation, senators elected during the 2014 general election
shall be elected to terms of at least four years. The terms of
senators having two years remaining to their terms on the date of the general election may be extended by two years.

(c) The representatives elected in even-numbered districts in the 2014 general election shall be elected to terms of two years. Those representatives elected in odd-numbered districts in the 2014 general election shall be elected to terms of four years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
ARTICLE III, SECTION 15
ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4
ARTICLE XII

TERMS OF STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES.—Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the terms for which state senators are elected from 4 years to 6 years, increase the terms for which state representatives are elected from 2 years to 4 years, and increase limits on the period for which a person may be elected as state senator or state representative, generally from 8 consecutive years to 12 consecutive years.