

HJR 12 INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, ET AL.
CALL FOR UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON
TERMS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

1/22 INTRODUCED
1/22 REFERRED TO STATE ADMINISTRATION
2/06 HEARING
2/06 COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL NOT PASSED
2/07 ADVERSE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED 81 16

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12
 2 INTRODUCED BY Thomas C. Smith Jones
 3 SALES
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA PETITIONING CONGRESS
 6 TO CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF
 7 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO
 8 LIMIT THE TERMS OF MEMBERS TO A SINGLE AND LONGER TERM IN
 9 EACH CHAMBER OF CONGRESS; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION
 10 TERMINATES IF CONGRESS PROPOSES AND SUBMITS TO THE STATES
 11 FOR RATIFICATION AN AMENDMENT ON THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER.

12
 13 WHEREAS, under the present 2-year term of office for a
 14 member of the United States House of Representatives the
 15 entire term of the member becomes a constant reelection
 16 campaign; and

17 WHEREAS, with a member of the United States Senate the
 18 6-year length of term provides substantial time for
 19 representation, but with reelection pressures a member of
 20 the Senate and hence the whole chamber loses the dignity
 21 that was envisioned for that body by the founders of our
 22 nation; and

23 WHEREAS, such reelection pressures degrade the ideal
 24 representation standard expected from members of Congress,
 25 and the elimination of such pressures, along with an

1 increase in the term of office for each chamber, would
 2 provide continuity and increase responsiveness to
 3 constituents; and

4 WHEREAS, single terms of 6 years for members of the
 5 House of Representatives and 12 years for members of the
 6 Senate, with a provision for the staggering of their terms,
 7 would provide greater citizen representation by members who
 8 would not lose contact with their constituents as happens
 9 with multidecade tenure of members that is common today.

10
 11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 12 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 That the Legislature of the State of Montana proposes,
 14 and application is hereby made, that Congress, pursuant to
 15 Article V of the U.S. Constitution, call a convention for
 16 the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S.
 17 Constitution relating to the elective terms of members of
 18 Congress to:

- 19 (1) limit a person to a single term of office in each
- 20 chamber;
- 21 (2) lengthen the term of office of each chamber;
- 22 (3) provide staggered terms of office for each
- 23 chamber; and
- 24 (4) provide for a transition from the present terms to
- 25 such proposed terms.



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

2 (1) That this application constitutes a continuing
3 application in accordance with Article V of the U.S.
4 Constitution until at least two-thirds of these United
5 States have made similar application pursuant to Article V.

6 (2) That if Congress proposes an amendment to the U.S.
7 Constitution with the same subject matter as that contained
8 in this application and submits it to the states for
9 ratification, this application terminates.

10 (3) That this application is void and rescinded and
11 may not be considered to constitute an authorizing
12 application if a convention called pursuant to it is not
13 limited to the issue of limiting the elective terms of
14 members of Congress.

15 (4) That the Clerk of the House transmit copies of
16 this application to the Secretary of the United States
17 Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of
18 Representatives, the members of Montana's Congressional
19 Delegation, and to the presiding officers of each of the
20 state legislatures requesting those legislatures to adopt
21 resolutions calling for a constitutional convention on the
22 issue of limiting the elective terms of members of Congress.

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