

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

Introduced by Thomas, et al.

2/07	Introduced
2/08	Referred to State Administration
2/15	Hearing
2/15	Tabled in Committee

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19
2 INTRODUCED BY Thomas Mark Toole Hoffman
3 Rock

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 TO TWO THE NUMBER OF TERMS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS MAY
9 HOLD IN EACH CHAMBER AND TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF TERMS OF
10 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO 4
11 YEARS; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION TERMINATES IF
12 CONGRESS PROPOSES AND SUBMITS TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION
13 AN AMENDMENT ON THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER.

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

19 WHEREAS, members of Congress tend to become entrenched
20 in office with the advantages enjoyed by incumbents becoming
21 an almost insurmountable obstacle to challengers; and

22 WHEREAS, limiting members of Congress to two terms of
23 office would provide valuable continuity and experience by
24 allowing members of the House of Representatives to serve 8
25 years and members of the Senate to serve 12 years and would

1 avoid the present multidecade tenure common today; and

2 WHEREAS, Congressional officeholding would gain dignity
3 and responsiveness because becoming a member of Congress
4 would become a way to represent constituents in the
5 governance of the nation rather than a powerful career.
6

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
8 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 That the Legislature of the State of Montana proposes,
10 and application is hereby made, that Congress, pursuant to
11 Article V of the United States Constitution, call a
12 convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to
13 the United States Constitution relating to the elective
14 terms of members of Congress to:

15 (1) limit a person to two terms of office in each
16 chamber;

17 (2) lengthen the term of office of a member of the
18 House of Representatives to 4 years; and

19 (3) provide for a transition from the present terms to
20 the proposed terms.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

22 (1) That this application constitutes a continuing
23 application in accordance with Article V of the United
24 States Constitution until at least two-thirds of these
25 United States have made similar application pursuant to

LC 1448/01

1 Article V.

2 (2) That if Congress proposes an amendment to the
3 United States Constitution with the same subject matter as
4 that contained in this application and submits it to the
5 states for ratification, this application terminates.

6 (3) That this application is void and rescinded and may
7 not be considered to constitute an authorizing application
8 if a convention called pursuant to it is not limited to the
9 issue of limiting the elective terms of members of Congress.

10 (4) That the Clerk of the Montana House of
11 Representatives transmit copies of this application to the
12 Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the
13 United States House of Representatives, the members of
14 Montana's Congressional Delegation, and to the presiding
15 officers of each state legislature along with requests that
16 each legislature adopt a resolution calling for a
17 constitutional convention on the issue of limiting the
18 elective terms of members of Congress.

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