

State of Vermont



House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 2

Joint resolution making application under the U.S. Constitution to require a convention for proposing amendments

Offered by: Representatives Helm of Fair Haven, Batchelor of Derby, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Savage of Swanton, and Seymour of Sutton

Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides that Congress must call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution upon application by two-thirds of the states demanding such action, and

Whereas, the Vermont General Assembly is joining with other states in asserting rights and responsibilities under Article V of the U.S. Constitution with regard to proposing a congressional term limits amendment, and

Whereas, the citizens of 23 states have passed statutes or state constitutional amendments limiting ballot access to federal congressional candidates on the basis of terms previously served in Congress, but these measures were overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court, and

Whereas, the influence of money in politics and elections continues to increase, and members of Congress listen more to their funders than to their voters, and

Whereas, to maximize their dollars, most Political Action Committees—especially those representing corporations—give the majority of their campaign money to the incumbents in Congress, making it virtually impossible for challengers to win an election, and

Whereas, the average length of service in Congress continues to rise, which creates a detachment between the members and their constituents, making some of the American people feel they are no longer being listened to, and

Whereas, open-seat elections will allow for more people to participate in the government from a variety of backgrounds, providing better representation and more options for the voters on the ballots, and

Whereas, the Vermont General Assembly, a body of citizen legislators, desires to restore rotation in office for members serving in the Congress of the United States, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly makes an application to Congress, as provided by Article V of the U.S. Constitution, to call a convention limited to proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a Member of the U.S. Senate, and be it further

Resolved: That this application shall be considered as covering the same subject matter as the applications from other states to Congress to call a convention to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and to the U.S. Senate; and this application shall be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but shall not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject, and be it further

Resolved: That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the U.S. Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President, the Secretary of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House, the Chair and Clerk of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House

Attested to:

David Zuckerman
President of the Senate

William M. MaGill
Clerk, House of Representatives

**J.R.H. 2 JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING APPLICATION UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
TO REQUIRE A CONVENTION FOR PROPOSING AMENDMENTS**

Offered by: Representative Helm, et al