

Original sponsor(s): REP. PETTYJOHN, Taylor, Hanley, Leman

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54 (Judiciary)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to amendments to the Consti-  
6 tution of the United States concerned  
7 with the Congress.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 WHEREAS the Congress was originally envisioned by the Founding Fathers  
10 as a nonpartisan, part-time legislative body whose members would take time  
11 from their normal businesses and professions to attend the congressional  
12 session for four to five months annually; and

13 WHEREAS the press of the nation's business has forced the Congress to  
14 become increasingly a highly structured, professional, and hierarchical  
15 institution rather than the informal, flexible gathering of citizens and  
16 legal intellectuals that obtained in the Federalist Era; and

17 WHEREAS the power of the incumbency has grown over time and with the  
18 institution of electronic media to the point that the incumbent is nearly  
19 unassailable in a normal election; and

20 WHEREAS the seniority system in the Congress, though recently re-  
21 formed, still places disproportionate stress on electoral longevity; and

22 WHEREAS innovative ideas and rejuvenated vigor are more likely to come  
23 to the Congress through new members fresh from association with the people  
24 of the United States; and

25 WHEREAS the most common complaint that the public makes about congres-  
26 sional service is that members of Congress spend more of their time running  
27 for office than attending to their duties; and

28 WHEREAS the power of incumbency makes biennial congressional elections  
29 an expensive, exasperating, and ultimately rather meaningless waste of each

1 member's time and talents; and

2       WHEREAS under art. V of the Constitution of the United States, an  
3 amendment to the Constitution may be proposed by the Congress, or on the  
4 application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, the Congress  
5 shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an  
6 amendment, which, in either case, shall become part of the Constitution  
7 when ratified by three-fourths of the several States;

8       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of  
9 the United States is requested to propose an amendment to the Constitution  
10 of the United States for submission to the states for ratification to limit  
11 the number of terms a person may serve in the United States House of Rep-  
12 resentatives to no more than six and to limit the number of terms a person  
13 may serve in the United States Senate to no more than two; and be it

14       FURTHER RESOLVED that alternatively, effective July 1, 1991, under  
15 art. V of the Constitution of the United States, the Legislature of the  
16 State of Alaska makes application to the Congress of the United States to  
17 call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an  
18 amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the  
19 states for ratification, to limit the number of terms a person may serve in  
20 the United States House of Representatives to no more than six and to limit  
21 the number of terms a person may serve in the United States Senate to no  
22 more than two; and be it

23       FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Congress proposes and submits to the  
24 states for ratification, within 60 days after the legislatures of two-  
25 thirds of the states have made application for a convention, an amendment  
26 to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that  
27 contained in this Joint Resolution, then this application for a convention  
28 shall no longer be of any force or effect; and be it

29       FURTHER RESOLVED that this application and request be considered null

1 and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event that the convention not  
2 be limited to that specific and exclusive purpose; and be it

3       FURTHER RESOLVED that this application constitutes a continuing appli-  
4 cation under art. V of the Constitution of the United States until at least  
5 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several States have made application  
6 for a similar convention under art. V, until the Congress has proposed an  
7 amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject  
8 matter to that contained in this Joint Resolution, or until July 1, 2001,  
9 whichever occurs first.

10       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the United  
11 States Senate; to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives;  
12 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
13 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
14 Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the presiding officer of each house  
15 of each other state legislature in the United States.