

HJR

4

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: January 13, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 1/29/98

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HJR 4

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

LIMITING TERMS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to terms of legislators.

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) CEV

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) 14A

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Jeanette James</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Jeanette James

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
GENE THERRIAULT

Mailing Address:
119 N. Cushman, Suite 101
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 488-0857
FAX: (907) 488-4271

While in Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
(907) 465-4797
Fax: (907) 465-3884

House District 33

House Of Representatives

HJR 4 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to terms of legislators

SPONSOR: Representative Gene Therriault

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

HJR 4 proposes to limit terms by limiting the number of regular legislative sessions a person may serve. The resolution proposes that a person may not serve consecutively more than twelve full regular sessions in the legislature. A person may not again serve in the legislature as a result of election or appointment to fill a vacancy until at least two consecutive regular sessions have elapsed. In addition, when tabulating the number of sessions served, special sessions shall not be counted nor shall time served as the result of appointment to fill a vacancy.

Alaskan voters demonstrated their desire for congressional term limits through 1994's ballot measure 4, which passed by a margin of 62%. Alaskans have also expressed their support for term limits on the municipal level with many communities adopting some form of term limits for local elected officials. HJR 4 will now give voters the chance to change the state constitution and limit terms of state legislators.

Term limits are a positive legislative reform, guaranteeing that new legislators will be elected along with new ideas. The popularity of term limits indicates that a majority of our citizens do not prefer career politicians representing them. Term limits will also level the playing field for challengers facing long-term incumbents whose power oftentimes is derived primarily from seniority.

Placing a constitutional amendment limiting the terms of state legislators on the ballot is a measure that is long overdue.

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House Of Representatives

House District 33

HJR 4 0-LS0188VA 1/13/97

Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to terms of legislators

SPONSOR: Representative Gene Therriault

Sectional Analysis:

Election and Terms

- Section 1:** Amends Article II, section 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, by limiting a person from serving consecutively more than twelve full regular sessions in the legislature. A person may not serve again in the legislature as a result of election or appointment until at least two consecutive full regular sessions have elapsed.
- Section 2:** Exempts periods served during the interim, between sessions or during special sessions from being considered when calculating the tenure limit. In addition, periods served as a result of appointment to fill a vacancy shall not be considered when determining whether the tenure limit has been reached.
- Section 3:** Regular sessions served in the legislature before the convening of the first regular session of the Twenty-Third Legislature will be considered when calculating tenure limit.
- Section 4:** Places the proposed amendments on the ballot at the next general election..

Alaska State Legislature

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99801-1182
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House Of Representatives

House District 33

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 1998

TO: Representative Jeannette James, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Gene Therriault 

SUBJECT: Scheduling of HJR 4

I would like to respectfully request that House Joint Resolution 4, "Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to terms of legislators" be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.

The resolution proposes that a person may not serve consecutively more than twelve full regular sessions in the legislature. A person may not again serve in the legislature as a result of election or appointment to fill a vacancy until at least two consecutive full regular session have elapsed.

I appreciate your consideration of my request.

NFIB Alaska



National Federation of Independent Business

Statement of Support

of HJR 4

A resolution calling for a constitutional amendment relating to term limits for state legislators and certain officers of the state.

The Alaska Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business has over 3000 members, making it the largest small-business advocacy group in the state.

The legislative agenda of NFIB is determined by ballot. The ballot is our poll of members on a series of state legislative and regulatory issues.

The 1996 ballot results showed very strong support for limiting the number of terms served by members of the Alaska legislature. Following are the ballot results on this issue:

Should the Alaska legislature be limited in the number of terms they can serve in office?

76 % YES 21 % NO 3 % Undecided

If you answered yes to the above question, which of the following options do you prefer?

- a. Term limit of no more than 12 consecutive years. (69 %)**
- b. Term limit of four 2-year terms as a State Representative and two 4-year terms as a State Senator. (31 %)**

NFIB/Alaska urges support for HJR 4.

Submitted by Thyes Shaub on behalf of NFIB/Alaska.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. _____
BILL VERSION: HJR 4
PUBLISH DATE: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: "Proposing amendments to the
Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to terms..."
Sponsor: Representative Therriault
Requestor: House State Affairs

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: All
Component: All

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Zero fiscal impact to the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852
Division: Administrative Services Date: 1/27/98
Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela Varni*
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 1/27/98

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, Gov. , & Impacted Agency(ies).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR4 | _____

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Office of the Governor
 Title Const. Amend: Relating to terms of legislators BRU Elective Operations
 Component Elections
 Sponsor Representatives Therriault, Rokeberg
 Requester House State Affairs Committee Component Serial No. #21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	3.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	3.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This figure includes the cost of providing information about this issue in the Official Election Pamphlet, as required by AS 15.58, and the programming costs for counting votes cast on the measure. However, only four measures can be printed on a single ballot card. If this measure requires printing an additional ballot card, the costs will increase by \$58.0.

Prepared by Gail Fenumia *Gail Fenumia* Phone 465-3935
 Division Division of Elections Date 1/23/98
 Approved by C. Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer *Fran Ulmer* Date 1/23/98
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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