

SJR 27 -- GIFT BAN FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPONSOR: Holsman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 6 to 1, with 1 present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 1.

Currently, no person may be elected to serve more than 8 years total in any one house of the General Assembly, and 16 years total in both houses. This Constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, provides that no person shall be elected to serve more than 16 years total in the General Assembly, regardless of which house. The amendment exempts service resulting from an election occurring prior to December, 2018. The amendment further imposes limitations on the amount of time that a person may serve as Speaker of the House, President Pro Tem of the Senate, or majority or minority floor leader of the House or Senate to four years in each position.

This Constitutional amendment also prohibits any member of the General Assembly, or such person's staff, spouse, employees, or dependent children from accepting any expenditure from any lobbyist registered pursuant to Missouri law or from any lobbyist principal.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this would decrease the influence of lobbyists and increase the knowledge of legislators.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Holsman and BJ Tankersley, Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the gift ban by lobbyists should be clear as to the role in which the gift was given, such as a birthday or Christmas gift from a lobbyist made to a family member that works in the Capitol.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Society of Governmental Consultants.