

HCS HJR 67 -- TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 1 with 1 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 67.

Currently, members of the General Assembly can serve no more than eight years total in any one chamber of the legislature, nor more than 16 total in both chambers.

Beginning December 5, 2030, upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment would remove the single chamber prohibition, allowing members of the General Assembly to serve no more than 16 years total in either chamber of the legislature.

The resolution also prohibits any person from serving more than four years as Speaker of the House of Representatives and more than four years as President Pro Tem of the Senate.

This bill is similar to HJR 69 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that term limits increase the power of political leadership and lobbyists at the expense of the institutional knowledge of the members serving in the legislature. Some of the supposed benefits of term limits, like increasing diversity among members, never materialized. Career public service brings many advantages, in the same way career experience in any other field would. Term limits encourage elected officials to constantly seek new opportunities to serve rather than allowing them to focus on excelling in the same role for a long time.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Marilyn McLeod, League of Women Voters Of Missouri; Nancy Copenhaver; and Samuel H. Lee.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that 75% of voters supported term limits when they were enacted in 1992. Term limits bring new ideas and fresh blood into legislative bodies.

Testifying in person against the bill was Arnie C. Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.