



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 122		DATE: 2/17/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA E LANNING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 7:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Elections are the voters chance to enforce term limits. I have always opposed term limits, because I used to work in Jefferson City in the 1980s and the vast amount of institutional knowledge of some legislators was critical for good government. Term limits have made it impossible for legislators to understand the process and become an expert in some area of government. Term limits allowed lobbyists to provide the only institutional knowledge. I also strongly support term limits for the Speaker and President Pro Tem. I remember many leaders that stayed in a position too long ended with ethical and criminal issues.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 4:53 PM	
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 2:49 PM	
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I support removing the term limits because when good representatives are forced to leave, their 8 years of experience, growth, and knowledge go with them.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:38 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID PAIGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:40 AM	
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I support HJR 122



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:57 AM
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I support the removal of term limits for members of the Missouri House of Representatives. The lack of institutional knowledge makes it much easier for lobbyists to present cookie cutter bills to members who then work to get that piece of legislation passed but are not around later to see the repercussions of the bill.

**Thank you.
Joan Gentry**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:09 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUNE PAIGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:43 AM

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I believe this is a fantastic way to keep fresh eyes and ideas in our general assembly.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:21 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

lections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives

By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 9888 OLD WARSON RD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: kayparklwvmo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:24 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Missouri I support HJR 104,122 and 149 to remove term limits for the General Assembly. Term limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives. By relaxing the limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists.

Kay Park, President

League of Women Voters of Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LEA LANGDON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 1:02 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This resolution extends term limits. Extending the total time they can serve would provide greater continuity, allowing experienced representatives who understand our concerns to advocate for us over a longer period. It would also reduce the frequency of campaign cycles, meaning lawmakers could spend less time fundraising and more time focusing on the issues that matter to their constituents.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill would allow legislators to serve longer in one house of the legislature, which would help them build experience and knowledge of the laws. If they aren't being effective, the voters can vote them out of office



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 10:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I urge the Elections committee to vote YES on HJR 122 term limits and all term limit bills under consideration today. I believe elections are effective enough for limiting terms. Additionally, by relaxing term limits, our Missouri legislators can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats. Vote YES!



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY COPENHAVER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-263-5725
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: LWVMO VICE PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 1512 RIDGELINE DRIVE		
CITY: MOBERLY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65270
EMAIL: copenhaver22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:29 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has had a position opposing term limits, often citing the saying "elections are the best term limits." The League supports HJR 122 (and the two similar bills) because it is a step in the right direction. Allowing representatives and senators who have gained experience, knowledge, and expertise in particular areas would have the chance to convince the voters that they deserve a longer term in the house that they choose. Currently, lobbyists, staff members, and even those outside the legislature often have more experience than those actually representing us and making the laws.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA KAY HOLCUMBRINK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 10:53 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAULINE TESTERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 12:31 PM	
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I believe voters have the right to re-elect members of the general assembly as often as they wish.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 6:31 PM	
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Term limits are a well-intentioned action that have not served Missouri well in practice. Elections already serve as term limits, giving residents of a particular district the opportunity to retain their representation or seek new representation. The rigidity of term limits prevents voters in a district from retaining leadership of their choice, especially effective legislators who have developed knowledge and experience. In addition, the rigid term limits create pressure for legislators to "make their marks" in a short period of time, making them susceptible to influence by lobbyists and corporations interests, rather than taking the time to develop legislation that will benefit their constituents and the state of Missouri as a whole. I join the League of Women Voters in supporting this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHELLE GARDNER-ROE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:59 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Elections already serve as a very effective form of term limits and the existing term limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives.

By relaxing these limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats, which so plague our democratic system.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 5:28 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA MIKULICH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives

By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:05 PM	
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACY MACHADO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:23 AM

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Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats if this is passed.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 5:22 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:30 AM	
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The current limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives. Relaxing limits will allow lawmakers to gain institutional knowledge and resist outside influence from lobbyists and bureaucrats.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:43 PM	
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Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives

By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WINIFRED COLWILL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:30 PM

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Artificial term limits result in legislators eyeing the next political appointment as their term expires instead of addressing their constituents' concerns and the public interest.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 7:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

- Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives
- By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 1:44 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Circulated for the Enlightenment of the General Assembly

It has come to this author’s attention that the distinguished members of the Missouri General Assembly are presently engaged in a most refined endeavor: the reshaping of their own tenure within the hallowed chambers of Article III.

HJR 122 proposes to adjust the architecture of legislative service — first by recalibrating the permissible years one may remain in either chamber, and second by placing elegant limitations upon the duration of one’s occupancy in the esteemed offices of Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 One must confess: the Constitution permits such tailoring.

The several States possess broad and sovereign authority to define the qualifications and tenure of their own legislators. The United States Supreme Court has long affirmed that states may structure their internal governance so long as no federal constitutional prohibition is transgressed.¹

Measures establishing legislative term limits have been reviewed under rational basis scrutiny and upheld where neutral and prospective.²

HJR 122, on its face, does not appear to offend those boundaries. It does not punish. It does not name. It does not retroactively criminalize prior service.³ Nor does it resemble a bill of attainder, for it singles out no individual for legislative condemnation.⁴

And yet — dear legislators — elegance in constitutional amendment requires more than good intentions. It demands precision.

Particular care must be given to the transitional counting provisions, especially the December 5, 2030 inflection point. Where years are counted, clarity must be absolute. Ambiguity in ballot summary language has, in seasons past, drawn the careful eye of Missouri’s courts.⁵

The ballot question must reflect the amendment’s true legal effect — neither simplified into vagueness nor adorned in omission.

Further, while each chamber traditionally retains authority under Article III to determine its own rules and elect its officers, the imposition of constitutional leadership caps must be harmonized explicitly

with that internal governance power. A constitutional amendment may certainly recalibrate that authority — but it should do so transparently, lest future litigants attempt to manufacture tension where none was intended.

Let it therefore be recorded:

The principal legal risk presented by HJR 122 lies not in its constitutional permissibility, but in its implementation.

Clarity in ballot drafting.

Clarity in transitional counting.

Clarity in administrative instruction.

For history has shown that when structural amendments are passed with imprecision, it is not philosophy that litigates — it is language.

Should this amendment proceed to the voters, it is unlikely to face successful federal constitutional challenge under prevailing precedent. However, ambiguity in ballot language or transitional implementation may invite pre-election litigation under Chapter 116, RSMo. The General Assembly is hereby placed on formal notice that precision in drafting will materially reduce foreseeable litigation costs and procedural delay.

Missouri is free to structure its own legislative term limits. The legal question is not authority, but accuracy. If the language is precise, the courts will have little to say. If it is not, they most certainly will.

Footnotes

Gregory v. Ashcroft, 501 U.S. 452, 460–61 (1991).

Bates v. Jones, 131 F.3d 843, 847–48 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc).

Calder v. Bull, 3 U.S. (3 Dall.) 386, 390 (1798).

Nixon v. Adm'r of Gen. Servs., 433 U.S. 425, 468 (1977).

Brown v. Carnahan, 370 S.W.3d 637, 653–54 (Mo. banc 2012).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 122		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is a "solution" in search of a problem. The current structure of term limits is fine the way it is and doesnt need to be changed. I oppose this bill.