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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

JOINT RESOLUTION

MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CALL A CONVENTION OF STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO SET A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF TERMS THAT A PERSON MAY BE ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO SET A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF TERMS THAT A PERSON MAY BE ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. SENATE

Introduced By: Senator Elaine J. Morgan

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, Voter support for term limits is unmistakably united, breaching all political,
2 geographic, and demographic divides; and

3 WHEREAS, The influence of money in politics and elections has continued to increase
4 and members of the United State Congress often listen more to their funders than to their voters;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The average length of service in the United States Congress has also
7 continued to rise, which has created a detachment between the members and their constituents;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Founders of the United States Constitution empowered state legislators
10 to be guardians of liberty against undue use of power by the federal government; and

11 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution provides two ways to propose amendments to
12 the Constitution. Amendments may be proposed either by the Congress, through a joint resolution
13 passed by a two-thirds vote, or by a convention called by Congress in response to applications
14 from two-thirds of the state legislatures; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island hereby makes an
16 application to Congress, as provided by Article V of the Constitution of the United States, to call
17 a convention limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set a
18 limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States

1 House of Representatives, and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected
2 as a member of the United States Senate; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That this application shall be considered as covering the same subject
4 matter as the applications from other states to Congress to call a convention to set a limit on the
5 number of terms that a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the Congress of
6 the United States and the Senate of the United States; and this application shall be aggregated
7 with same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to
8 call a limited convention on this subject, but shall not be aggregated with any other applications
9 on any other subject; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance
11 with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds
12 of the several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby urges Congress to call a convention of
14 the states, under the authority reserved to the states in Article V of the United States Constitution,
15 limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States to call a convention
16 limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to set a
17 limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States
18 House of Representatives or as a member of the United States Senate; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this application resolution to the President and Secretary of the
21 Senate of the United States and to the Speaker, Clerk and Judiciary Committee Chairman of the
22 House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to the members of Rhode
23 Island's Congressional Delegation.

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