

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HJR 659 Term Limits
SPONSOR(S): Troutman and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF
	1) <u>Ethics and Elections (Sub.)</u>	<u>8 Y, 1 N</u>	<u>Mitchell</u>	<u>Randle</u>
	2) <u>Procedures</u>	<u>21 Y, 8 N</u>	<u>Mitchell</u>	<u>Randle</u>
	3) _____	_____	_____	_____
	4) _____	_____	_____	_____
	5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HJR 659 proposes to amend art. VI, s. 4, of the Florida Constitution, to increase the current term limits, from eight years to twelve years, for Florida Representatives and Senators, or any member of the Cabinet. It retains the eight year term limit for the Office of Lieutenant Governor.

HJR 659 proposes to delete the eight-year term limitation for United States Representatives and United States Senators from Florida, which was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in 1995.

If enacted, the proposed constitutional amendment will be presented to the electors of Florida at the November 2004 general election, and if approved, will apply only to those officers whose consecutive years in office begin in November 2004 or after.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: h0659.pr.doc
DATE: March 31, 2004

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation –

Art. VI, s. 4, of the Florida Constitution, currently provides that a Florida Representative or Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Florida cabinet member, United States Representative or United States Senator from Florida may not have his or her name placed on the ballot if the person has served eight consecutive years in that office. In 1992, Florida voters approved term limits under the “eight is enough” proposal (citizen initiative) by a margin of 77 percent to 23 percent.

Article VI, s. 4(b) currently reads:

No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to any of the following offices:

- (1) Florida representative,
- (2) Florida senator,
- (3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
- (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
- (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years.

In 1995, the United States Supreme Court held that state limits on the terms of federal officials violate the United States Constitution.¹ Shortly after that date, the provisions relating to state officials were challenged, but the Florida Supreme Court upheld the provisions of art. VI, s. 4(b), that apply to state officials.²

¹ *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 115 S.Ct. 1842 (1995).

² *Ray v. Mortham*, 742 So.2d 1276 (Sept. 2, 1999) (The Court found that the portions relating to state officials could be severed from the portions that were stricken as invalid in *Thornton* and held that the term limits amendment as applied to state officers was constitutional.)

Proposed Situation -

HJR 659 proposes to amend art. VI, s. 4, of the Florida Constitution, to increase the current term limits, from eight years to twelve years, for Florida Representatives and Senators, or any member of the Cabinet. It retains the eight-year term limit for the Office of Lieutenant Governor.

HJR 659 proposes to delete the eight-year term limitation for United States Representatives and United States Senators from Florida, which provision was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court.

If enacted, the proposed amendment will be presented to the electors of Florida at the November 2004 general election, and if approved, will apply only to those officers whose consecutive years in office begin in November 2004 or after.

If enacted, the proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the November 2004 ballot as follows:

TERM LIMITS

Proposes an amendment to Section 4 of Article VI and the creation of Section 26 of Article XII of the State Constitution to increase, from 8 to 12, the number of consecutive years a state legislator or any Cabinet officer may serve in that office before being denied the right to have his or her name appear on the ballot for re-election to that office; applies to those officers whose consecutive years in office begin in November 2004 or thereafter; removes provisions that apply term limits by means of ballot access to members of Congress, which the United States Supreme Court has determined violate the Federal Constitution.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

None.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:
2. Expenditures: Article XI, s. 5, Fla. Const., requires that each proposed amendment to the Constitution be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county two times prior to the general election. The Division of Elections estimates that the cost of compliance would be approximately \$58,767.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:
2. Expenditures:

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

2. Other: See "Current Situation" in "EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES" above.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES