



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 659

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Joint Resolution No. 14

Senate, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute joint resolution ought to be adopted.

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION MODIFYING THE LEGISLATIVE TERM OF OFFICE.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Section 8 of article third of the Constitution is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 8. [A general election] General elections for members of the
8 general assembly shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of
9 November [, biennially, in the even-numbered years] of the second,
10 sixth and tenth years following the year in which the decennial census
11 of the United States is taken. The general assembly shall have power to
12 enact laws regulating and prescribing the order and manner of voting
13 for such members, for filling vacancies in either the house of

14 representatives or the senate, and providing for the election of
15 representatives or senators at some time subsequent to the Tuesday after
16 the first Monday of November in all cases when it shall so happen that
17 the electors in any district shall fail on that day to elect a representative
18 or senator.

19 Section 10 of article third of the Constitution is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 Sec. 10. a. The members of the general assembly elected on the
22 Tuesday after the first Monday of November of the second year
23 following the year in which the decennial census of the United States is
24 taken shall hold their offices from the Wednesday following the first
25 Monday of the January next succeeding their election until the
26 Wednesday after the first Monday of the [third] fifth January next
27 succeeding their election, and until their successors are duly qualified.

28 b. The members of the general assembly elected on the Tuesday after
29 the first Monday of November of the sixth year following the year in
30 which the decennial census of the United States is taken shall hold their
31 offices from the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January
32 next succeeding their election until the Wednesday after the first
33 Monday of the fifth January next succeeding their election, and until
34 their successors are duly qualified.

35 c. The members of the general assembly elected on the Tuesday after
36 the first Monday of November of the tenth year following the year in
37 which the decennial census of the United States is taken shall hold their
38 offices from the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January
39 next succeeding their election until the Wednesday after the first
40 Monday of the third January next succeeding their election, and until
41 their successors are duly qualified.

42 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
43 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
44 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, and
45 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented

46 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026,
47 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
48 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
49 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
50 State be amended to provide, after each decennial redistricting, for two
51 four-year legislative terms and a two-year legislative term?".

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In the ballot designation, "followed by" was changed to "and" for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	None	35,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The resolution potentially places a proposed amendment to extend the term of office for state senators and representatives on the ballot during the November 2026 election which will result in a one-time printing cost of \$35,000 in FY 27 to the Secretary of the State. The resolution must pass by three-quarters of the General Assembly for the cost to be in the FY 27 (2026 election). If the requisite votes are not met, the cost to the Secretary of the State will shift to FY 29.

The Out Years

The cost identified above is one-time; however the FY 27 cost may be shifted to FY 29 pursuant to the requirements of the constitutional amendment process.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSJ 14*****RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION MODIFYING THE LEGISLATIVE TERM OF OFFICE.*****SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to generally extend the term of office for state senators and representatives from two years to four years. Specifically, it sets the general election date for legislators in the 2nd, 6th, and 10th years following the year of the decennial census. Legislators elected in the 10th year following the census would serve a two-year term (i.e. ending before the new redistricting boundaries would apply). Correspondingly, the amendment sets a two- or four-year term of office depending on the election year's relation to the census.

The ballot designation to be used when the amendment is presented at the general election is: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to provide, after each decennial redistricting, for two four-year legislative terms and a two-year legislative term?"

EFFECTIVE DATE: If the resolution passes by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the General Assembly, it will be placed on the 2026 general election ballot. If it passes by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths, it will be referred to the 2027 session of the legislature. If it passes in that session by a majority of each house, it will appear on the 2028 general election ballot. If a majority of those voting on the amendment in the general election approve it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2025)