



**94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2005 and 2006**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

**HC0009**

Introduced 2/1/2005, by Rep. Suzanne Bassi

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 2

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5

Proposes to amend the Legislature Article of the Illinois Constitution. Changes the terms of members of the General Assembly. Provides that Senators elected in 2008 shall serve four-year terms. Provides that Senators elected in 2010 shall serve two-year terms. Provides that Representatives elected in 2008 shall serve four-year terms. Provides that, beginning in 2012, in each ten-year period, Senators shall be divided into two groups. Provides that Senators in the first group shall first be elected for terms of six years and then for terms of four years. Provides that Senators in the other group shall first be elected for terms of four years and then for terms of six years. Provides that, beginning in 2012, Representatives shall first be elected for terms of four years, then for terms of two years, and then for terms of four years. Provides that whenever a seat in either house becomes vacant with more than 28 months remaining in the term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment until the next general election, at which time a replacement shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the term. Provides that the General Assembly shall be a continuous body for a period beginning and ending at noon on the second Wednesday of January of consecutive odd-numbered years. Effective upon being declared adopted. Applies to the election of General Assembly members in 2008 and thereafter; does not affect the terms of members elected in 2004 or 2006.

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Sections 2 and 5 of Article IV of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE IV  
THE LEGISLATURE

(ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 2)

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COMPOSITION

(a) One Senator shall be elected from each Legislative District. Senators elected in 2008 shall serve four-year terms. Senators elected in 2010 shall serve two-year terms. Immediately following each decennial redistricting, the General Assembly by law shall divide the Legislative Districts as equally as possible into two ~~three~~ groups. During each ten-year period, beginning with the general election in 2012, Senators from one group shall first be elected for terms of six years and then for terms of four years ~~four years, four years and two years;~~ Senators from the second group, ~~for terms of four years, two years and four years;~~ and Senators from the other ~~third~~ group shall first be elected, for terms of ~~two years,~~ four years and then for terms of six ~~four~~ years. The Legislative Districts in each group shall be distributed substantially equally over the State.

(b) Each Legislative District shall be divided into two Representative Districts. ~~In 1982 and every two years thereafter~~ One Representative shall be elected from each Representative District ~~for a term of two years.~~ Representatives elected in 2008 shall serve terms of four

1 years. During each ten-year period, beginning with the general  
2 election in 2012, Representatives shall first be elected for  
3 terms of four years, then for terms of two years, and then for  
4 terms of four years.

5 (c) To be eligible to serve as a member of the General  
6 Assembly, a person must be a United States citizen, at least 21  
7 years old, and for the two years preceding his election or  
8 appointment a resident of the district which he is to  
9 represent. In the general election following a redistricting, a  
10 candidate for the General Assembly may be elected from any  
11 district which contains a part of the district in which he  
12 resided at the time of the redistricting and reelected if a  
13 resident of the new district he represents for 18 months prior  
14 to reelection.

15 (d) Within thirty days after a vacancy occurs, it shall be  
16 filled by appointment as provided by law. If the vacancy is in  
17 a Senatorial or Representative office with more than  
18 twenty-eight months remaining in the term, the appointed  
19 Senator or Representative shall serve until the next general  
20 election, at which time a Senator or Representative shall be  
21 elected to serve for the remainder of the term. If the vacancy  
22 is in any other Senatorial or a Representative office ~~or in any~~  
23 ~~other Senatorial office~~, the appointment shall be for the  
24 remainder of the term. An appointee to fill a vacancy shall be  
25 a member of the same political party as the person he succeeds.

26 (e) No member of the General Assembly shall receive  
27 compensation as a public officer or employee from any other  
28 governmental entity for time during which he is in attendance  
29 as a member of the General Assembly.

30 No member of the General Assembly during the term for which  
31 he was elected or appointed shall be appointed to a public  
32 office which shall have been created or the compensation for  
33 which shall have been increased by the General Assembly during  
34 that term.

35 (Source: Amendment adopted at general election November 4,  
36 1980.)

1 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5)

2 SECTION 5. SESSIONS

3 (a) The General Assembly shall convene each year on the  
4 second Wednesday of January. The General Assembly shall be a  
5 continuous body for a period beginning and ending at noon on  
6 the second Wednesday of January of consecutive odd-numbered  
7 years. ~~during the term for which members of the House of~~  
8 ~~Representatives are elected.~~

9 (b) The Governor may convene the General Assembly or the  
10 Senate alone in special session by a proclamation stating the  
11 purpose of the session; and only business encompassed by such  
12 purpose, together with any impeachments or confirmation of  
13 appointments shall be transacted. Special sessions of the  
14 General Assembly may also be convened by joint proclamation of  
15 the presiding officers of both houses, issued as provided by  
16 law.

17 (c) Sessions of each house of the General Assembly and  
18 meetings of committees, joint committees and legislative  
19 commissions shall be open to the public. Sessions and committee  
20 meetings of a house may be closed to the public if two-thirds  
21 of the members elected to that house determine that the public  
22 interest so requires; and meetings of joint committees and  
23 legislative commissions may be so closed if two-thirds of the  
24 members elected to each house so determine.

25 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

26 SCHEDULE

27 This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being  
28 declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois  
29 Constitutional Amendment Act and applies to the election of  
30 members of the General Assembly in 2008 and thereafter. It does  
31 not affect the terms of members elected in 2004 or 2006.