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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Our founding fathers declared independence from
3 Great Britain after suffering from violations of their rights
4 and the abuses of taxation from the British government as a
5 result of hereditary rule; and

6 WHEREAS, After seeing firsthand the abominable effects of
7 single, long-term rule our founding fathers chose
8 republicanism instead of a monarchy and hereditary rule; and

9 WHEREAS, Even before the United States Constitution was
10 drafted, the founding fathers believed in terms limits, as the
11 Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776 set a maximum service of 3
12 years in the Pennsylvania General Assembly followed by a
13 mandatory 4-year break; and

14 WHEREAS, During the Constitutional Convention, Thomas
15 Jefferson urged term limits as part of law "to prevent every
16 danger which might arise to American freedom by continuing too
17 long in office the members of the Continental Congress"; and

18 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson's sentiment was established in
19 the Articles of Confederation as "no person shall be capable of
20 being a delegate [to the Continental Congress] for more than 3
21 years in any term of 6 years"; and

1 WHEREAS, Although term limits were not written into the
2 Constitution, President George Washington established a
3 precedent for a 2-term rule, as he left office despite public
4 urging that he remain in office; and

5 WHEREAS, Lack of term limits has placed a great strain on
6 state governments, as well as the United States Congress, as
7 long-serving members have forgotten the wise words of our
8 founding fathers and legislative politics has taken a more
9 encompassing role than that of citizens' needs; and

10 WHEREAS, A lack of term limits contributes to one-party
11 rule, a travesty that is further enhanced by electoral district
12 boundaries drawn by state legislatures; and

13 WHEREAS, Redistricting of electoral district boundaries,
14 when done by state legislatures, leads to legislative politics
15 as members try to maintain power; and

16 WHEREAS, Electoral district boundaries should be drawn by
17 an independent entity, without thought of political party; and

18 WHEREAS, In an effort to reduce the role of large private
19 contributions in Presidential elections, Congress created a
20 public funding program that uses tax dollars to match the first

1 \$250 of each individual contribution that an eligible
2 Presidential candidate receives during the primary campaign to
3 fund the major-party nominees' general election campaigns and
4 to assist eligible minor-party nominees; and

5 WHEREAS, Many states have seen the influence of large
6 private contributions in state elections, and many of those
7 contributors expect payback in the form of earmarks, contracts,
8 or plum government appointments; and

9 WHEREAS, Because of the corrupting influence of money, many
10 Americans have lost faith in politics and government; and

11 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
12 requires the United States Congress to call a convention for
13 proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the
14 legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing
15 amendments to the United States Constitution; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois sees the need for a
17 convention to propose amendments in order to address concerns,
18 including those raised by the lack of term limits, the practice
19 of redistricting established by state legislatures, and the
20 influence of large private contributions in state elections;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois desires that the delegates
2 to the convention be composed equally of individuals currently
3 elected to State and local office or be selected by election in
4 each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as
5 delegates; however, all individuals elected or appointed to
6 federal office, now or in the past, shall be prohibited from
7 serving as delegates to the Convention; the State of Illinois
8 intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power
9 of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

10 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois intends that this be a
11 continuing application, considered together with applications
12 calling for a convention and all others passed, pending, and
13 future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Illinois
14 notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds of the several
15 states have applied for a Convention and that Convention is
16 convened by Congress; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we hereby make application to
20 the Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the
21 Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a
22 convention for proposing amendments; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That this application be deemed an application

1 for a convention to address each or any of the subjects listed
2 in this resolution; for purposes of determining whether
3 two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention
4 addressing any subject, this application is to be aggregated
5 with the applications of any other state legislatures limited
6 to one or more of the subjects listed in this resolution; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this resolution constitutes a continuing
9 application and remains in effect until repeal by any sitting
10 session of the legislature of this State; this application does
11 not constitute a recognition that any particular activity or
12 activities currently undertaken by the federal government is or
13 are authorized by the Constitution; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the President and Secretary of the United States
16 Senate; the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives
17 of the United States Congress; the Archivist of the United
18 States; the members of the United States Senate and House of
19 Representatives from this State; and the presiding officers of
20 each of the legislative chambers in the several states,
21 requesting their cooperation.