

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE JOINT  
4 RESOLUTION 14

By: Bergstrom

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Joint Resolution making an application to the  
8 United States Congress to call a convention of the  
9 states under Article V of the United States  
10 Constitution for the purpose of proposing an  
11 amendment to the United States Constitution related  
12 to limiting the terms of office for its officials and  
13 for members of Congress; providing for construction  
14 of application; directing transmission; and  
15 specifying that application constitutes continuing  
16 application.

17 WHEREAS, the founders of the Constitution of the United States,  
18 through the enactment of Article V, empowered state legislators to  
19 be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the  
20 federal government; and

21 WHEREAS, in *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton*, 514 U.S. 779  
22 (1995), the United States Supreme Court declared that states could  
23 not individually impose term limits on their own federal delegations  
24 through state statutes, but could collectively pass a term limits  
25 amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
27 requires Congress to propose amendments to the Constitution of the

1 United States upon a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of both the House and  
2 Senate or call a Constitutional Convention upon application of two-  
3 thirds (2/3) of state legislatures, and requires ratification by  
4 thirty-eight (38) states for the proposal to become law; and

5 WHEREAS, without term limits, congressional members have an  
6 advantage in elections that virtually guarantees a lifetime of  
7 reelections; and

8 WHEREAS, term limits for members of Congress will allow an equal  
9 balance of power to all states, with leadership positions based on  
10 merit instead of political favors and tenure of members.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 Section 1. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby makes an application  
14 to Congress, as provided by Article V of the Constitution of the  
15 United States of America, to call a convention limited to proposing  
16 an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to  
17 set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a  
18 Member of the United States House of Representatives and to set a  
19 limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a  
20 Member of the United States Senate.

21 Section 2. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to  
22 transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary  
23 of the Senate of the United States and to the Speaker, Clerk and  
24 Judiciary Committee Chair of the House of Representatives of the

1 Congress of the United States, and copies to the members of the  
2 Senate and House of Representatives from this State; also to  
3 transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the  
4 legislative houses in the several States, requesting their  
5 cooperation.

6 Section 3. This application shall be considered as covering the  
7 same subject matter as the applications from other States to  
8 Congress to call a convention to set a limit on the number of terms  
9 that a person may be elected to the House of Representatives of the  
10 Congress of the United States and the Senate of the United States;  
11 and this application shall be aggregated with same for the purpose  
12 of attaining the two-thirds (2/3) of states necessary to require  
13 Congress to call a limited convention on this subject, but shall not  
14 be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject.

15 Section 4. This application constitutes a continuing  
16 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the  
17 United States of America until the legislatures of at least two-  
18 thirds (2/3) of the several states have made applications on the  
19 same subject.

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