

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representative Givens**

H.J.R.

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7 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 "FOR THE PURPOSE OF PETITIONING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
9 STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
10 UNITED STATES, FOR SUBMISSION TO THE STATES, TO LIMIT THE
11 NUMBER OF TERMS A PERSON MAY SERVE IN THE UNITED STATES
12 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NO GREATER THAN SIX AND TO
13 LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TERMS A PERSON MAY SERVE IN THE UNITED
14 STATES SENATE TO NO GREATER THAN TWO, OR IN THE
15 ALTERNATIVE, TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR THE SOLE AND
16 EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OR PROPOSING SUCH AN AMENDMENT FOR
17 SUBMISSION TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION."
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19 WHEREAS, Congress was originally envisioned by the Founding Fathers as a
20 non-partisan, part-time legislative body whose members would take time from
21 their normal businesses and professions to attend the congressional session
22 for four to five months annually; and

23 WHEREAS, the press of the nation's business has forced the Congress to
24 become increasingly a highly structured, professional, and hierarchical
25 institution rather than an informal, flexible gathering of citizens and legal
26 intellects that existed in the Federalist Era; and

27 WHEREAS, the power of the incumbency has grown over time to the point
28 that the incumbent is nearly unassailable in any normal election; and

29 WHEREAS, the seniority system in the Congress, though recently reformed,
30 still places disproportionate stress on electoral longevity; and

31 WHEREAS, innovative ideas and rejuvenated vigor are more likely to come
32 to the Congress through new members fresh from association with the American
33 people; and

34 WHEREAS, the most common complaint that the public makes about
35 congressional service is that Congressmen spend more of their time running for

1 office than attending to their duties; and

2 WHEREAS, the power of incumbency makes biennial congressional elections
3 an expensive, exasperating and, ultimately, rather meaningless waste of each
4 Congressman's time and talents; and

5 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, an
6 amendment to the Constitution may be proposed by Congress, or on the
7 application of the legislatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the states, the
8 Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing
9 an amendment, which, in either case, shall become part of the Constitution
10 when ratified by three-fourths (3/4) of the several states.

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12 NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS
15 ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

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17 THAT the Congress of the United States is hereby petitioned to propose
18 an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the
19 states for ratification, to limit the number of terms a person may serve in
20 the United States House of Representatives to no more than six (6) and to
21 limit the terms a person may serve in the United States Senate to no more than
22 two (2); and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that alternatively, effective July 1, 1991, that
24 pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the General
25 Assembly of the State of Arkansas makes application to the Congress of the
26 United States to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of
27 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for
28 submission to the states for ratification, to limit the number of terms a
29 person may serve in the United States House of Representatives to no greater
30 than six (6) and to limit the number of terms a person may serve in the United
31 States Senate to no greater than two (2); and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if Congress proposes and submits to the
33 states for ratification, within sixty (60) days after the legislatures of two-
34 thirds (2/3) of the states have made application for such convention, an
35 amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter

1 to that contained in this joint resolution, then this application for a
2 convention shall no longer be of any force or effect; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application and request be deemed null
4 and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event that such convention not be
5 limited to such specific and exclusive purpose; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application by this Legislature
7 constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
8 Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds (2/3) of the
9 legislatures of the several States have made application for a similar
10 convention pursuant to Article V or the Congress has proposed an amendment to
11 the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that
12 contained in this Joint Resolution; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be
14 transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President and the Secretary of
15 the United States Senate, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States
16 House of Representatives, to each member of this state's delegation to the
17 Congress, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature
18 in the United States.

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