

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the Arkansas  
Constitution.**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

HJR 1026

4  
5 By: Representative Dotson

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

8 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO BE KNOWN  
9 AS THE "ARKANSAS TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT"; TO PROVIDE  
10 THAT A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
11 SERVE NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE TWO-YEAR  
12 TERMS AND A MEMBER OF THE SENATE SHALL SERVE NO MORE  
13 THAN TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS UNLESS  
14 CERTAIN CONDITIONS APPLY; AND TO PROVIDE THAT FUTURE  
15 REVISIONS TO TERM LIMITS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
16 SHALL BE PROPOSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

**Subtitle**

19 A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE KNOWN AS  
20 THE "ARKANSAS TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT".  
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23

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL  
26 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:  
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28 That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of  
29 the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state  
30 for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives  
31 and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election  
32 adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of  
33 the State of Arkansas, to wit:  
34

35 SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 73, § 2, is amended to  
36 read as follows:



1 § 2. Legislative Branch.

2 (a) The ~~Arkansas~~ House of Representatives shall consist of members to  
3 be chosen every second year by the qualified electors of the several  
4 counties.

5 (b) The ~~Arkansas~~ Senate shall consist of members to be chosen every  
6 four (4) years by the qualified electors of the several districts.

7 (c)(1) ~~A member of the General Assembly shall serve no more than~~  
8 ~~sixteen (16) years, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive. A member of the~~  
9 House of Representatives shall serve no more than four (4) consecutive two-  
10 year terms.

11 (2) ~~A member who completes his or her sixteenth year of service~~  
12 ~~during a term of office for which he or she has been elected may serve until~~  
13 ~~the completion of that term of office. A member of the Senate shall serve no~~  
14 more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

15 (3) ~~The years of service in both the Senate and the House of~~  
16 ~~Representatives shall be added together and included to determine the total~~  
17 ~~number of years in office.~~

18 ~~(4)(3)(A)~~ A partial legislative term served as a result of a  
19 special election under Article 5, § 6, ~~or a two-year term served as a result~~  
20 ~~of apportionment of the Senate~~ shall not be included in calculating the ~~total~~  
21 number of ~~years~~ terms served by a member of the General Assembly.

22 (B) A two-year term served as a result of apportionment of  
23 the Senate shall be included in calculating the number of terms served by a  
24 member of the General Assembly.

25 (4) A member of the House of Representatives or Senate who  
26 completes his or her eighth year of service during a term of office for which  
27 he or she has been elected may serve until the completion of that term of  
28 office.

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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 73, § 6, is amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 § 6. Application.

33 (a)(1) This Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section,  
34 this Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall take effect and be in  
35 operation on January 1, 1993, and its provisions shall be applicable to all  
36 person thereafter seeking election to the offices specified in this

1 Amendment.

2 (2) Section 2(c) of this amendment shall apply to persons  
3 elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate on and after November  
4 6, 2018.

5 (b) All laws and constitutional provisions which conflict with this  
6 Amendment are hereby repealed to the extent that they conflict with this  
7 amendment.

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9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 73, is amended to add an  
10 additional section to read as follows:

11 § 7. Authority to propose amendments.

12 (a) The citizens of the State of Arkansas find that:

13 (1) While term limits play an important role in state  
14 government, they should be balanced by the need to maintain an experienced  
15 legislative branch that can serve as an effective check on the executive and  
16 judicial branches;

17 (2) Frequent amendments to legislative term limits initiated by  
18 special interests and others outside of the General Assembly weaken the  
19 legislative branch and impair the representation of Arkansas citizens; and

20 (3) The ability to amend legislative term limits in the future  
21 should be limited to a referral to the qualified electors of the state by the  
22 General Assembly to ensure that the legislative branch provides the citizens  
23 of the state with experienced representation and is immune from outside  
24 forces revising term limits in a manner that is not in the best interests of  
25 the state.

26 (b)(1) The power to propose an amendment to this Constitution  
27 amending or repealing term limits for members of the House of Representatives  
28 or Senate is reserved to the General Assembly under Arkansas Constitution,  
29 Article 19, § 22.

30 (2) The people of the State of Arkansas do not have authority  
31 under Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, to propose an amendment to this  
32 Constitution amending or repealing term limits for members of the House of  
33 Representatives or Senate.

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35 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after  
36 January 1, 2021.

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SECTION 5. BALLOT TITLE AND POPULAR NAME. When this proposed amendment is submitted to the electors of this state on the general election ballot:

(1) The title of this joint resolution shall be the ballot title; and

(2) The popular name shall be "A Constitutional Amendment to be known as the "Arkansas Term Limits Amendment" to Provide that a Member of the House Of Representatives Shall Serve No More Than Four (4) Consecutive Two-Year Terms and a Member of the Senate Shall Serve No More Than Two (2) Consecutive Four-Year Terms Unless Certain Conditions Apply and to Provide that Future Revisions to Term Limits for the General Assembly Be Proposed by the General Assembly".