

HOUSE BILL NO. 655

INTRODUCED BY J. JAYNE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 8, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLE V, SECTION 3, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO 4 YEARS AND SENATORS TO 6 YEARS; EXTENDING TERM LIMITS FOR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS TO REFLECT THE EXTENDED TERMS; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT ONE-HALF OF THE SENATORS BE ELECTED EVERY 2 YEARS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Article IV, section 8, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 8. Limitation on terms of office. (1) The secretary of state or other authorized official shall not certify a candidate's nomination or election to, or print or cause to be printed on any ballot the name of a candidate for, one of the following offices if, at the end of the current term of that office, the candidate will have served in that office or had he not resigned or been recalled would have served in that office:

(a) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, or superintendent of public instruction;

(b) ~~8~~ 12 or more years in any ~~16-year~~ 24-year period as a state representative;

(c) ~~8~~ 12 or more years in any ~~16-year~~ 24-year period as a state senator;

(d) 6 or more years in any 12-year period as a member of the U.S. house of representatives; and

(e) 12 or more years in any 24-year period as a member of the U.S. senate.

(2) When computing time served for purposes of subsection (1), the provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to time served in terms that end during or prior to January 1993.

(3) Nothing contained herein shall preclude an otherwise qualified candidate from being certified as nominated or elected by virtue of write-in votes cast for said candidate."

Section 2. Article V, section 3, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 3. Election and terms. A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term

1 of ~~two~~ four years and a member of the senate for a term of ~~four~~ six years each to begin on a date provided by
2 law. ~~One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years."~~

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4 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. This amendment is effective on approval by the electorate.

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6 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Submission to electorate. This amendment shall be submitted to the
7 qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2004 by printing on the ballot the
8 full title of this act and the following:

9 FOR extending the terms of legislators and term limits for legislators and removing the
10 requirement that one-half of senators be elected every 2 years.

11 AGAINST extending the terms of legislators and term limits for legislators and removing the
12 requirement that one-half of senators be elected every 2 years.

13 - END -