

SENATE BILL NO. 391

INTRODUCED BY J. BALYEAT

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN
5 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO REVISE TERMS OF
6 SERVICE OF STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES BY REDUCING THE LENGTH OF TERMS AND
7 IMPOSING TERM LIMITS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Article VII, section 7, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:
12 **"Section 7. Terms and pay -- limitations.** (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law,
13 but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

14 (2) Terms of office shall be ~~eight~~ six years for supreme court justices, ~~six years for~~ and district court
15 judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges. A person may not serve
16 more than 12 years in any 24-year period as a member of the supreme court. Service as chief justice or justice
17 of the supreme court shall count the same for computation of term limits. Service as an appointee to a vacancy
18 for any portion of a 6-year term shall be included in a term limits computation."

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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date -- applicability.** If approved by the electorate, this
21 amendment is effective January 1, 2007, and applies to elections occurring during or after 2008. For purposes
22 of calculating judicial term limits, the amendment does not apply to terms of service that began prior to January
23 1, 2007, and those terms of service may not be included in a judicial term limits computation.

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25 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the
26 qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2006 by printing on the ballot the
27 full title of this act and the following:

28 FOR reducing terms of supreme court justices and imposing term limits on supreme court
29 justices.

30 AGAINST reducing terms of supreme court justices and imposing term limits on supreme court

1 justices.

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