

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 202

Short Title: Speaker/Pro Tem Term Limits. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blust, Jones (Primary Sponsors); Dollar and Starnes.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, if favorable, Judiciary I, if favorable, Appropriations.

February 18, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AMENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE TERMS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE TO TWO CONSECUTIVE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Section 15 of Article II of the Constitution of North Carolina reads as rewritten:

**"Sec. 15. Officers of the House of Representatives.**

The House of Representatives shall elect its Speaker and other officers. No person may serve as Speaker in more than two consecutive General Assemblies. The initial convening of a session of the General Assembly after the terms of members commence shall constitute a new General Assembly for the purpose of this Section. Only service as Speaker during any part of an odd-numbered year constitutes service as Speaker for that General Assembly for the purpose of this Section."

**SECTION 2.** Section 14 of Article II of the Constitution of North Carolina reads as rewritten:

**"Sec. 14. Other officers of the Senate.**

(1) President Pro Tempore – succession to presidency. The Senate shall elect from its membership a President Pro Tempore, who shall become President of the Senate upon the failure of the Lieutenant Governor-elect to qualify, or upon succession by the Lieutenant Governor to the office of Governor, or upon the death, resignation, or removal from office of the President of the Senate, and who shall serve until the expiration of his term of office as Senator.

No person may serve as President Pro Tempore in more than two consecutive General Assemblies. The initial convening of a session of the General Assembly after the terms of members commence shall constitute a new General Assembly for the purpose of this Section. Only service as President Pro Tempore during any part of an odd-numbered year constitutes service as President Pro Tempore for that General Assembly for the purpose of this Section.

(2) President Pro Tempore – temporary succession. During the physical or mental incapacity of the President of the Senate to perform the duties of his office, or during the absence of the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore shall preside over the Senate.

(3) Other officers. The Senate shall elect its other officers."

**SECTION 3.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 2010, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting



1 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The  
2 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

3 "  FOR  AGAINST

4 Constitutional amendments providing that the Speaker of the House and the  
5 President Pro Tempore of the Senate may not serve more than two consecutive terms."

6 **SECTION 4.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the  
7 amendments set out in this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendments to the  
8 Secretary of State. The amendments shall become effective upon the convening of the General  
9 Assembly next on or after January 1, 2011, and service as Speaker or President Pro Tempore  
10 prior to that date shall not be considered for the purpose of the amendments. The Secretary of  
11 State shall enroll the amendments so certified among the permanent records of that office.

12 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective upon ratification.