

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 126**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
213th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 24, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes amendment to State Constitution to change terms of members of the Senate and General Assembly.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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1 A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article IV,  
2 Section II, paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Constitution of the State of  
3 New Jersey.

4  
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
6 General Assembly concurring):

7  
8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the  
9 State of New Jersey is agreed to:

10  
11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12  
13 a. Amend Article IV, Section II, paragraphs 2 and 4 to read as  
14 follows:

15 2. Each senator shall be elected by the legally qualified voters of  
16 the Senate district, except that if the Senate district is composed of  
17 two or more counties and two senators are apportioned to the  
18 district, one senator shall be elected by the legally qualified voters  
19 of each Assembly district. Each senator shall be elected for a term  
20 beginning at noon of the second Tuesday in January next following  
21 his election and ending at noon of the second Tuesday in January  
22 **[four] five** years thereafter **[**, except that each senator, to be elected  
23 for a term beginning in January of the second year following the  
24 year in which a decennial census of the United States is taken, shall  
25 be elected for a term of two years**]**.

26 (cf: Art.IV, Sec.II, para.2, amended effective December 8, 1966)

27 4. Two members of the General Assembly shall be elected by  
28 the legally qualified voters of each Assembly district for terms  
29 beginning at noon of the second Tuesday in January next following  
30 their election and ending at noon of the second Tuesday in January  
31 **[two] three** years or two years thereafter, as the case may be. The  
32 terms for members of the General Assembly shall be three years  
33 followed by two years in an alternating pattern.

34 (cf: Art.IV, Sec.II, para.4, amended effective December 8, 1966)

35  
36 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally  
37 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
38 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
39 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
40 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
41 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
42 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three  
43 months prior to the general election.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1       3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
2 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
3 form:

4       There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the  
5 general election, the following:

6       a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,  
7 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

8       If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
9 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are  
10 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
11 square opposite the word "No."

12       b. In every municipality the following question:  
13

	YES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CHANGE TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b></p> <p>Shall the amendments to the New Jersey Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature, to provide that members of the Senate are to be elected for a term of five years, and to provide that members of the General Assembly are to be elected for a term of three years followed by two years in an alternating pattern, be approved?</p>
	NO	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>This amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, if approved, would change the term of members of the State Senate to five years. Also, the term of members of the General Assembly would be changed to an alternating pattern of a three year term followed by a two year term. State Senators currently serve a four year term, except for the first term in each decade which is two years. Members of the General Assembly currently serve a two year term.</p>

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**SCHEDULE**

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18       This constitutional amendment shall be first applicable to the  
19 term of the members of the Senate and the General Assembly  
20 elected at the general election in 2011.

