

Conference Committee on HJR 19 June 27, 1991 - Page

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HJR 19

June 27, 1991Hearing Room E 6:30 p.m. Tape 1

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Bradbury Sen. Bunn

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Markham, Chair Rep. Miller Rep. Shibley

STAFF PRESENT: Randall Jones, Committee Administrator Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

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TAPE 1, SIDE A

HJR 19 - Limits terms of any one office in Legislative Assembly to 12 consecutive years, upon voter approval of amendment to Oregon Constitution at next general election

010 CHAIR MARKHAM: Calls the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Staff submits a staff measure summary on HJR 19-A (EXHIBIT A).

RANDALL JONES, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: HJR 19-A says that no person shall serve more than 12 consecutive years as a member of the legislative assembly. - HJR 19-B says that no person shall serve more 12 consecutive years in any one office in the legislative assembly.

012 MILLER: The B version of the bill will cause this to be the no limit limit. Feels that the public is supportive of the limits embraced in the current proposed initiative. Setting out for a short time does not constitute any limit.

020 BRADBURY: This is a partisan issue. The A version does not consider a member having an opportunity to serve more than one term in the Senate, if a member has served for a certain number of years in the House. - The real issue is term limits as relates to incumbency.

054 BUNN: The main discontent with voters is the incumbent issue. - Discusses the congressional incumbent perception because of their 96% re-election rate, which is not true for here. - We want to give people an opportunity to run and have a fair chance to be elected. To say that a state representative and a state senator is the same office makes no sense. It is a different office. - When a person serves for a number of years in the House, then chooses to run in the Senate, they are running for an open seat or they are running against an incumbent. - We have not created a situation where they are holding an incumbent position and giving the public an unfair advantage to compete. - A lifetime limit seems absurd to me. Why are you saying if somebody served in the legislature that after that limit, 20 years later, they shouldn't be able to serve again?

080 SHIBLEY: What is the average term tenure?

JONES: Believe it is six years in the House and eight years in the Senate.

SHIBLEY: We then are talking about a perception, not a reality. This would not come into play often.

BUNN: Concerned about the A version having the clock start ticking for everybody at the same time. Therefore a huge turnover would occur at a certain point causing a great disruption.

125 MILLER: The term limit would attract those who want to dedicate themselves to public service instead of career opportunity.

BUNN: But we will facing the situation that in 12 years down the road, there will be no one who has a legislative background. Understand the need for term limits. If you want limits or not, it is important not to have a great turnover.

140 MOTION: REPRESENTATIVE MILLER MOVES ADOPTION OF THE HJR 19-A ENGROSSED VERSION OF THE BILL.

VOTE: THE MOTION FAILS. REPRESENTATIVE MILLER AND CHAIR MARKHAM VOTE AYE. REPRESENTATIVE SHIBLEY, SENATOR BRADBURY, AND SENATOR BUNN VOTE NO.

MOTION: SENATOR BRADBURY MOVES ADOPTION OF THE HJR 19- B ENGROSSED VERSION OF THE BILL.

MILLER: In response to Rep. Shibley, the proposed initiative limits the term of house members to six years, and senators to eight years, with no more than 12 combined years of service. Also, after 12 years of service, a person cannot return.

Discussion on congressional limits.

VOTE: THE MOTION FAILS. REPRESENTATIVE SHIBLEY, SENATOR BRADBURY, AND SENATOR BUNN VOTE AYE. REPRESENTATIVE MILLER AND CHAIR MARKHAM VOTE NO.

CHAIR MARKHAM: Adjourns the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Pamela Berger

EXHIBIT LOG: A - HJR 19 - Staff Measure Summary - Staff - 1 p.