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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Comments

SCR10/SR8

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF POTENTIAL POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF IMPLEMENTING TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on S.C.R. No. 10/S.R. No. 8, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study of Potential Positive and Negative Consequences of Implementing Term Limits for Members of the Legislature.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Bureau:

- (1) Conduct a study of potential positive and negative consequences of implementing term limits for members of the Legislature; and
- (2) Report its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

The Bureau notes that extensive information about the potential positive and negative consequences of legislative term limits already exists and is publicly available. Of particular note, from 2001 through 2004, a Joint Project on Term Limits (JPTL) was conducted as a cooperative effort by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Council of State Governments (CSG), State Legislative Leaders Foundation, and a number of legislative scholars. This massive project assessed the effects of term limits on state legislatures and identified approaches for coping with term limits. The JPTL employed in-depth case studies (of six states with term limits and three without), data collection, and surveys. A brief summary of the JPTL's findings may be accessed here: https://issuu.com/csg.publications/docs/bos_2005.¹ A more extensive summary of the JPTL's findings may be accessed here: https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Reps/TermsCmteDocs/NCSL-term%20limits%20final.pdf.

The Bureau further notes that, according to an overview of legislative term limits on NCSL's website updated November 12, 2020 (<https://www.ncsl.org/about-state-legislatures/the-term-limited-states>), fifteen state legislatures have term limits and **no state has adopted term limits since 2000**. Therefore, the Bureau believes that the JPTL's reports on the effects of legislative term limits likely continues to be the most authoritative and comprehensive information available. Consequently, it is unclear what the Bureau could add to the exhaustive information already uncovered by the JPTL. Accordingly, the Bureau believes this is not the most productive use of its resources.

Nevertheless, if the Legislature still desires the Bureau to conduct this study, the Bureau believes that the report requested under this measure is manageable as long as the scope of the mandated report is not altered, and that the Bureau will be able to provide the information in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.

¹ Summary appears at page 111. Due to technical reasons, one must reach the page by adjusting the slider to page 136.

SCR-10

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 5:51:02 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/28/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** this Resolution.