

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1004

By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Section 15 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, which relates to the term of office for the Corporation Commission; placing a limitation on the time a Commissioner may serve in office; providing for nonconsecutive years in office; excluding years served in partial terms of office from the limitation; allowing for completion of current term of office before application of the limitation; providing effective date of the amendment; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE
1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to Section 15 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:

Section 15. A. A Corporation Commission is hereby created, to be composed of three persons, who shall be elected by the people at a general election for State officers, and their terms of office shall be six years: Provided, Corporation Commissioners first elected under this Constitution shall hold office as follows: One shall serve until the second Monday in January, nineteen hundred and nine; one until the second Monday in January, nineteen hundred and eleven; and one until the second Monday in January nineteen hundred and thirteen; their terms to be decided by lot immediately after they shall have qualified. In case of a vacancy in said office, the Governor of the State shall fill such vacancy by appointment until

the next general election, when a successor shall be elected to fill out any unexpired term.

B. Any Commissioner who is elected to office after the effective date of this amendment shall be eligible to serve no more than twelve years as a Commissioner. Years as a Commissioner need not be consecutive to determine the total number of years in office. Years served by any Commissioner elected or appointed to serve less than a full term to fill a vacancy in office shall not be included in the twelve-year limitation. No Commissioner who has completed twelve years in office shall thereafter be eligible to serve a partial term. Any Commissioner who is serving a term in office or who has been elected or appointed to serve a term in office on the effective date of this amendment shall be entitled to complete the term of office and shall be eligible to serve an additional twelve years thereafter. This amendment shall be effective on the first day of the year following its adoption.

SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in the following form:

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This measure seeks to change Section 15 of Article 9 of the State Constitution. The measure seeks to limit the number of years a Corporation Commissioner may serve in office. The limit would be 12 years. The 12 years do not have to be consecutive. If a Commissioner is elected or appointed to less than a full term of office that time would not count toward the limit. A Commissioner currently in office could finish the current term and then serve only 12 more years.

SHALL THIS AMENDMENT BE APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE?

YES, FOR THE AMENDMENT

NO, AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

SECTION 3. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, immediately after the passage of this resolution, shall prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney General.

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