

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 7, 2008

Committee Substitute for
ENGROSSED
Senate Bill No. 1987

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1987 - By:
LAUGHLIN AND BROGDON of the Senate and WORTHEN, BLACKWELL AND PIATT
of the House.

An Act directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection proposed amendments to Sections 4 and 23 of Article VI and Section 15 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; limiting the term of office of certain elected officials; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or
2 rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to
3 Section 4 of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, to read as follows:

4 Section 4. The term of office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor
5 and Inspector, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Labor and
6 Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be four (4) years from the second Monday of
7 January next after their election. The said officers shall be eligible to immediately
8 succeed themselves. ~~No person shall be elected Governor more than two times in~~
9 ~~succession; provided, no person shall be eligible to serve as Governor for a period of time~~

1 in excess of eight (8) years. Such years need not be consecutive. No person shall be
2 eligible to serve as Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor and Inspector, Attorney General,
3 State Treasurer, Commissioner of Labor or Superintendent of Public Instruction for a
4 period of time in excess of twelve (12) years. Such years need not be consecutive. Any
5 years served by a person elected or appointed to serve less than a full term to fill a
6 vacancy in any such office shall not be included in the limitations set forth herein. Any
7 person serving in such position at the time of passage of this amendment shall be eligible
8 to complete the term for which he or she has been elected notwithstanding the provisions
9 of this amendment.

10 SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or
11 rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to
12 Section 23 of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, to read as follows:

13 Section 23. There shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State, at the first
14 general election, a chief officer of said department, who shall be styled "The Insurance
15 Commissioner," whose term of office shall be four years: Provided, That the first term of
16 the Insurance Commissioner so elected, shall expire at the time of the expiration of the
17 term of office of the first Governor elected. Said Insurance Commissioner shall be at
18 least twenty-five years of age and well versed in insurance matters. No person shall be
19 eligible to serve as Insurance Commissioner for a period of time in excess of twelve (12)
20 years. Such years need not be consecutive. Any years served by a person elected or
21 appointed to serve less than a full term to fill a vacancy in such office shall not be
22 included in the limitation set forth herein. Any person serving in such position at the

1 time of passage of this amendment shall be eligible to complete the term for which he or
2 she has been elected notwithstanding the provisions of this amendment.

3 SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or
4 rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to
5 Section 15 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, to read as follows:

6 Section 15. A Corporation Commission is hereby created, to be composed of three
7 persons, who shall be elected by the people at a general election for State officers, and
8 their terms of office shall be six years: ~~Provided, Corporation Commissioners first~~
9 ~~elected under this Constitution shall hold office as follows: One shall serve until the~~
10 ~~second Monday in January, nineteen hundred and nine; one until the second Monday in~~
11 ~~January, nineteen hundred and eleven; and one until the second Monday in January~~
12 ~~nineteen hundred and thirteen; their terms to be decided by lot immediately after they~~
13 ~~shall have qualified.~~ In case of a vacancy in said office, the Governor of the State shall
14 fill such vacancy by appointment until the next general election, when a successor shall
15 be elected to fill out any unexpired term. No person shall be eligible to serve as
16 Corporation Commissioner for a period of time in excess of twelve (12) years. Such years
17 need not be consecutive. Any years served by a person elected or appointed to serve less
18 than a full term to fill a vacancy in such office shall not be included in the limitation set
19 forth herein. Any person serving in such position at the time of passage of this
20 amendment shall be eligible to complete the term for which he or she has been elected
21 notwithstanding the provisions of this amendment.

1 SECTION 4. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional amendments as set
2 forth in SECTIONS 1, 2 and 3 of this resolution shall be in the following form:

3 BALLOT TITLE

4 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

5 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

6 This measure amends Sections 4 and 23 of Article 6 of the State
7 Constitution. It also amends Section 15 of Article 9 of the State
8 Constitution. This measure would limit the Governor to eight years of
9 service. Other statewide elected officials would be limited to twelve years
10 of service. Years served for less than a full term would not be counted.

11 Persons serving when this measure is passed could complete their terms.

12 Under current law, the Governor is limited to two successive terms.

13 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

14 FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES _____

15 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO _____

16 SECTION 5. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall, immediately after the
17 passage of this act, prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth
18 in SECTION 4 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
19 General.

20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 04-03-08 - DO PASS, As
21 Amended and Coauthored.