

HOUSE BILL 118

By Richey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2;
Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 8, relative to
term limits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each county election commission shall include on the November 2024 election ballot the following question for the voters of the county and for the voters of each municipality within the county, respectively:

Should each local elected or appointed public official for (name of local government) be term limited after sixteen (16) years in office? YES or NO

(b) Residents of a municipality within a county may vote on the question posed under subsection (a) for county officials. Residents of the unincorporated area of a county shall not vote on the question posed under subsection (a) for the public officials of a municipality within the county.

(c) If the majority of the electorate of a local government:

(1) Does not vote in the affirmative on the question posed under subsection (a), the question may be placed on the November ballot in a next subsequent even-numbered year by:

(A) Submitting a petition in support of sixteen-year term limits to the governing body of the local government containing the signatures of

ten percent (10%) or more of the votes cast in the jurisdiction for governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election; or

(B) The adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the local legislative body calling for the question to be placed on the ballot; and

(2) Votes in the affirmative on the question posed under subsection (a), the question of whether to remove sixteen-year term limits from local elected and appointed public officials may be placed on the November ballot in a next subsequent even-numbered year in the same manner that a question may be placed on such a ballot in accordance with subdivision (c)(1).

(d) If a local government, by majority vote, votes in the affirmative to impose term limits on local elected and appointed public officials, then beginning with the next general November election in the next subsequent even-numbered year, each local public official of the local government is subject to a term limit of sixteen (16) years, regardless of whether terms are served consecutively. If a local public official is in office when term limits go into effect, and the official will have served more than sixteen (16) years by the end of the official's current term of office, the member may serve out the remainder of the member's term.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Local government" means an incorporated city or town, including a home rule city; a county, including a charter county; and a metropolitan government; and

(2) "Public official" includes a school board member.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.