

HOUSE BILL 2156

By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2 and Title 8, relative to the office of lieutenant governor.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-2-101, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

§ 8-2-101.

(a) There is hereby created the state office of lieutenant governor.

(b) A lieutenant governor shall be popularly elected by the qualified voters of the state at the same time and for the same term as the governor starting in 2010. The lieutenant governor's qualifications shall, in all respects, be the same as the governor. A person may be eligible to succeed in office as lieutenant governor for additional four-year terms, provided that no person shall be eligible for election to more than two (2) terms consecutively, including an election to a partial term.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall, at stated times, receive compensation for services, which shall not be increased or diminished during the period for which he or she shall have been elected.

(d) The lieutenant governor shall temporarily act as the governor while the governor is out of the state or incapacitated for more than seven (7) consecutive days. The lieutenant governor shall perform other duties as the general assembly shall prescribe by law.

(e) The lieutenant governor shall be an ex officio member of the following: the board of regents, state building commission, state board of education, solid waste disposal control board, water quality control board, air pollution control board and the

Tennessee wildlife resources commission. The governor may appoint the lieutenant governor to any other boards or commissions or when the governor exercises appointing authority. The governor may also request the lieutenant governor to chair any task force.

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly that the addition of an elected lieutenant governor and staff for such lieutenant governor be met with corresponding reductions in other parts of state government.

(g) This section shall not be construed as altering the line of succession prescribed in Article III, Section 12 of the Tennessee constitution.

(h) The language of this section is hereby deleted if a statewide election is held regarding any constitutional amendment proposing creation of the office of lieutenant governor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-2-102, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.