

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 61

Short Title: Speaker/Pro Tem Term Limits. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blust and Tillis (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Judiciary.

February 10, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE
3 TERMS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
4 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE TO TWO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 15 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
7 rewritten:

8 "**Sec. 15. Officers of the House of Representatives.**

9 The House of Representatives shall elect its Speaker and other officers. No person may
10 serve as Speaker in more than two General Assemblies. The initial convening of a session of
11 the General Assembly after the terms of members commence shall constitute a new General
12 Assembly for the purpose of this Section. Only service as Speaker during any part of an
13 odd-numbered year constitutes service as Speaker for that General Assembly for the purpose of
14 this Section."

15 **SECTION 2.** Section 14 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
16 rewritten:

17 "**Sec. 14. Other officers of the Senate.**

18 (1) President Pro Tempore – succession to presidency. The Senate shall elect from its
19 membership a President Pro Tempore, who shall become President of the Senate upon the
20 failure of the Lieutenant Governor-elect to qualify, or upon succession by the Lieutenant
21 Governor to the office of Governor, or upon the death, resignation, or removal from office of
22 the President of the Senate, and who shall serve until the expiration of his term of office as
23 Senator.

24 No person may serve as President Pro Tempore in more than two General Assemblies. The
25 initial convening of a session of the General Assembly after the terms of members commence
26 shall constitute a new General Assembly for the purpose of this Section. Only service as
27 President Pro Tempore during any part of an odd-numbered year constitutes service as
28 President Pro Tempore for that General Assembly for the purpose of this Section.

29 (2) President Pro Tempore – temporary succession. During the physical or mental
30 incapacity of the President of the Senate to perform the duties of his office, or during the
31 absence of the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore shall preside over the Senate.

32 (3) Other officers. – The Senate shall elect its other officers."

33 **SECTION 3.** The amendments set out in Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be
34 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 2012, which
35 election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting



1 systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The
2 question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

3 FOR AGAINST

4 Constitutional amendments providing that the Speaker of the House and the
5 President Pro Tempore of the Senate may not serve more than two terms."

6 **SECTION 4.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the
7 amendments set out in this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendments to the
8 Secretary of State. The amendments shall become effective upon the convening of the General
9 Assembly next on or after January 1, 2013, and service as Speaker or President Pro Tempore
10 prior to that date shall not be considered for the purpose of the amendments. The Secretary of
11 State shall enroll the amendments so certified among the permanent records of that office.

12 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.