



SPONSOR: Sen. Blevins & Sen. Henry & Rep. Schwartzkopf & Rep. Longhurst  
Sens. Venables, Ennis, Lavelle, McDowell & Lawson,  
Reps. Walker, Viola, M. Smith, J. Johnson, D. Short,  
Hudson, Wilson, Peterman, Kenton

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 5

AN ACT CONCURRING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 29 OF THE DELAWARE CONSTITUTION OF 1897, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE TERM OF OFFICE OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE (Two-thirds of all members elected to each house thereof concurring therein):

Section 1. Delete Article IV, Section 29 of the Delaware Constitution of 1897, as amended, by deleting the section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Section 29. There shall be appointed, as hereinafter provided, such number of persons to the Office of the Justice of the Peace as directed by law, who shall be commissioned as follows:

(a) Upon first appointment and confirmation, a Justice of the Peace shall be commissioned for four (4) years:

(b) Upon second or third appointment and confirmation, a Justice of the Peace shall be commissioned for six (6) years:

(c) Upon fourth or subsequent appointments and confirmation, a Justice of the Peace shall be commissioned for eight (8) years.”

SYNOPSIS

Article IV, Section 29 currently provides that, after completing an initial four-year term successfully enough to warrant reappointment and confirmation, succeeding terms would then be for six years. This amendment would provide that Justices of the Peace who have completed three terms of office successfully enough to warrant reappointment and confirmation for succeeding terms would thereafter serve terms of eight years, thereby retaining Justices of the Peace who are deemed most experienced by virtue of their years of service and increasing professionalism on that bench as a whole. This is the second leg of this Constitutional Amendment.

Author: Senator Blevins