

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First Engrossment

**Authors:** Brod and others

**Subject:** Staggered Terms for Senators

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### Overview

Proposes a constitutional amendment to provide staggered terms of office for Senators. Senators elected from odd-numbered districts would serve a pattern of 2-4-4 year terms each decade. Senators elected from even-numbered districts would serve a pattern of 4-4-2 year terms each decade.

#### Section

- 1** **Constitutional amendment.** Provides that after each new legislative redistricting, Senators elected from odd-numbered districts will be elected for two-year terms. The effect of this is that half of the Senate would be up for election at each state general election, except immediately after reapportionment they all run.

The table below illustrates the length of Senate terms if this amendment were implemented, beginning after the next redistricting in 2012:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Odd-numbered districts</u>	<u>Even-numbered districts</u>
2012	Elected to two-year term	Elected to four-year term
2014	Elected to four-year term	<i>[Not up for election]</i>
2016	<i>[Not up for election]</i>	Elected to four-year term

**Section**

	2018	Elected to four-year term	<i>[Not up for election]</i>
	2020	<i>[Not up for election]</i>	Elected to two-year term
	2022	Elected to two-year term	Elected to four-year term
<b>2</b>	<b>Question.</b> To be submitted at the 2006 general election. Makes the new system take effect at 2012 election.		