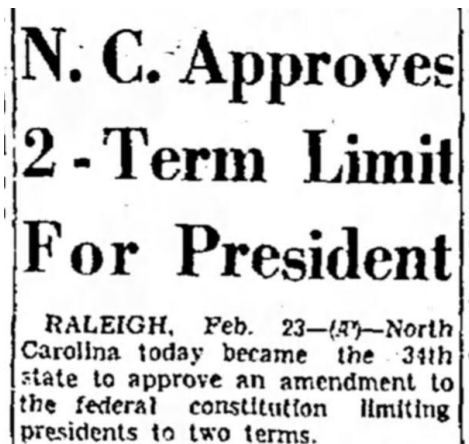


North Carolina

The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which limits a person to being elected to the presidency two times, and sets additional eligibility conditions for presidents who succeed to the presidency, was voted out of Congress by a supermajority vote in both chambers. Between 1947 and 1951, the 22nd Amendment was ratified by 41 state legislatures and officially came into effect after 36 states ratified the amendment in February 1951. Since the history of the 22nd Amendment's passage and the intent of those who ratified it has become relevant again, this factsheet is part of a series covering each state's ratification process.

North Carolina's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- The North Carolina legislature voted to ratify the 22nd Amendment on February 23, 1951.
- On March 27, 1947, Acting U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson [transmitted](#) a certified copy of Congress's "JOINT RESOLUTION Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the terms of office of the President" to Governor R. Gregg [Cherry](#) (D).
- Democratic Representative Herbert Clifton [Blue](#) [introduced](#) H.B. 59 to ratify the amendment on January 17, 1951. The resolution was postponed several times, and ultimately indefinitely as the ratification process proceeded in the [Senate](#).
- On February 9, 1951, Senate President Pro-Tem, Democrat R. Grady Rankin, [introduced](#) S.B. 168 to ratify the 22nd [Amendment](#).
- S. B. 168 was reported favorably out of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments on February 20, [1951](#).
- On February 21, 1951, [the](#) Senate approved the measure to ratify the 22nd Amendment by a vote of 33 to 8.
- On Thursday February 22, 1951, S.B. 168 was [introduced](#) in the North Carolina Senate and [passed](#) the second reading on February 22, 1951, but the proposal for the third reading was objected to by Senator Sanders and remained on the calendar.
- The Senate bill was voted on by the House of Representatives on February 23, 1951. The bill failed in its second reading in a vote of 28 to 74 but passed on the third and final measure



in the House by a vote of [67 to 41](#); both votes include “pairs” of votes which were made after the initial roll call vote.

- Days later, after the 22nd Amendment passed the 36 state threshold to become part of the U.S. Constitution, an editorial in *The High Point Enterprise* [opined](#), “Legislatures, we believe, were doing more than amending the constitution. They were also letting it be known that the majority of the states do not like prolonged tenure by any president.”

Cases involving the 22nd Amendment in North Carolina:

- There are no relevant cases in North Carolina that analyze the requirements of the 22nd Amendment.