

South 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.

South Carolina's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- South Carolina's legislature completed voting to ratify the 22nd amendment on March 13, 1951.
- South Carolina's ratification of the 22nd Amendment is notable because it was one of several states that ratified the amendment after it crossed the 36 state threshold to become part of the Constitution.
- The joint resolution to ratify the amendment passed in the House of Representatives on January 23, 1951, in a vote of 98 to 10.
- Prior to the final roll call vote, the House rejected a motion from Representative Vernal Glenn Arnette of Williamsburg to table the resolution.
- According to contemporaneous reporting, senators "wangled" over the House resolution to ratify the amendment.
- Senator John C. Taylor, a former Democratic member of Congress, reportedly "lead[] the battle for [the] two-term limit" and pushed unsuccessfully to fix the amount of time for voting to ensure quick passage. Taylor also expressed concern that an incumbent president's control of political party funds would ensure that nominating conventions were "controlled from the top and not

S. C. House Favors Presidential Term Limit Amendment

Columbia, Jan. 24. —(P)— The proposed 22nd amendment to the United States constitution received the stamp of approval from the South Carolina house of representatives yesterday.

A judiciary committee resolution to ratify the proposed amendment which would limit a president to two terms, was given a vital second reading on a thumping 98-10 vote. Prior to the roll call, the house refused a motion by Rep. Arnette of Williamsburg to table the resolution.

After an expected routine third reading by the house, the resolution will go to the senate. A similar house - approved resolution died there last year.

from the grass roots." Senator Taylor hoped the resolution would be adopted on George Washington's birthday because Washington "set a precedent for two terms."

- Fellow Democrat, Senator W. Lewis Wallace, objected to the procedural move stating, "I can't see the reason for hurrying" and "I have never seen such pressure for the voting upon a matter that can have no immediate effect on anyone."
- Senator Edward Williams Cantwell, another Democrat, said of the 22nd Amendment debate, "no man is indispensable."
- The measure eventually passed the Senate on March 1, 1951, by a vote of 24 to 9, but senators sent the measure back to the House to address a minor typographical error.
- The House approved the revised measure on March 13, 1951.

Cases involving the 22nd Amendment in South Carolina:

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