

# Tennessee

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.

## Tennessee's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- Tennessee's legislature voted to ratify the 22nd Amendment on February 20, 1951.
- By motion of Republican Senator Harry T. Burn, the Senate ratified the House Joint Resolution on February 20, 1951 in a 24 to 6 vote.
- The House Joint Resolution No. 17 was introduced by several Democratic Representatives including Roy H. Brock, James M. Hunter, Thomas A. Johnson, Reagor Motlow, O.T. Brown, John S. Ridley, Fleming Hodges, Tom Larkin, John P. Grimes, Robert L. Broome, Harry Lee Senter, J. Dawson Frierson, Ewing Cartwright, D.O. Beaty, H. Sanders Anglea, and Hoyt Bryson.
- Democratic Representative Thomas A. Johnson motioned for House Joint Resolution No. 17 to be adopted on February 16, 1951 and the motion passed in a 64 to 14 vote.



**RATIFICATION DAY**—Rep. Tom Johnson (Dem., Manchester), author of the Tennessee House resolution limiting the President to two terms, is shown at right as he reads over the resolution with Rep. Hoyt Bryson (Dem., Woodbury) just before it passed the House after an hour-long debate today.

### Tennessee House O.K.'s 2 Terms

#### But Resolution Still Has to Pass Senate

By Associated Press  
NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 16.—The Tennessee House today adopted and sent to the Senate a resolution ratifying an amendment to the federal Constitution to limit the President to two terms.

The vote was 64 to 15 after a hot hour-long debate which drew some of the most fervid oratory thus far heard by the 1951 Legislature.

When asked if he would sign the resolution if it passes the Senate, Browning said only:

"No comment."

Atty. Gen. Roy H. Beeler said the Governor has the same authority to sign a joint resolution that he has to veto a bill.

If the Senate joins the House in approving the resolution, and Browning signs it, only a simple majority of both houses is necessary to override the veto.

Should the Governor fail to sign the resolution within five days of receiving it from the Senate, the measure would become effective without his signature.

#### Georgia Is 31st For 2-Term Bill

By United Press

Tennessee has joined 32 other states in ratifying the constitutional amendment limiting a President to two terms.

The Tennessee Assembly completed legislative action on the resolution on Tuesday. There was talk that Gov. Gordon Browning, who opposed the proposed amendment, would veto the legislature's action.

But the state's attorney general pointed out that the federal law says only action by the two houses of a state legislature is required. In view of this, the governor's office said today the chief executive considered the legislative action final.

- Representative Hoyt Bryson's motion to reconsider House Joint Resolution No. 17 was discussed with Democratic Rep. Wayne Hunt stating that his opposition to the resolution in the case "that a very capable man might be limited to slightly over six years"
- The state legislature ratified the 22nd Amendment, although Democratic Governor Gordon Browning, who opposed the amendment, reportedly planned to veto the legislature's ratification. The State AG noted that federal law only requires "action by the two houses of a state legislature." In response the governor's office replied "the chief executive considered the legislative action final."

### Cases involving 22nd Amendment in Tennessee:

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

