



NEWS:

Amendment Seeks Term Limits for Legislature

A new House bill is seeking to set term limits on state legislators.

"[The lack of term limits] is probably one of the biggest things I hear about when I am walking through the communities," said State Rep. Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek South.

"I own some businesses and, every once in a while, I pay somebody to go into one of my fitness centers that have never been there to give me a fresh perspective," he said. "I'm looking for them to tell me what I'm missing. What have I gotten complacent with? They often come back with a long list. This is the same concept. I think it is healthy."

The proposed constitutional amendment ([House Bill 33](#)) Rep. Ramone is sponsoring would limit state legislators to serving no more than 20 consecutive years in the same office. Additionally, it would not take effect until after Election Day 2022 and only terms of office served after that date would count towards the limit.

Rep. Ramone said he intentionally structured the bill like this so legislators would not be placed in a position of voting in favor of an initiative that could undermine their more tenured colleagues.

Helping the bill's chances are the large proportion of new legislators in the 150th General Assembly. In the House of Representatives, nearly 30 percent of the chamber's 41 members are freshmen. "Some of them spoke about term limits as they were campaigning, so I think they will be supportive," Rep. Ramone said. "We only have one member of the House that currently has more than 20 years of service."

This latest initiative marks the third time Rep. Ramone has sponsored a term limits bill. Neither of the other two measures made it to the floor for a vote.

"We have term limits for our governor and our lieutenant governor," he said. "Why wouldn't we do it with our legislators?"