

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2001-02

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Campaigns &
Elections
(AC-CE)**

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

> Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

> **

> Committee Reports ... CR

> **

> Executive Sessions ... ES

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> Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

> Appointments ... Appt

> **

> Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

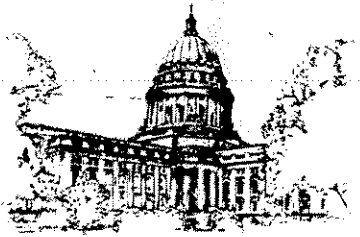
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> Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

> **01hr_ajr0041_AC-CE_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **



State Representative
Lee Meyerhofer

March 15, 2001

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Dear Members:

As we enter a new era in Wisconsin, I believe now is the time to look at limiting the number of terms a governor can serve. AJR 41 is similar to the 22nd Amendment to the US Constitution that was ratified 6 years after President FDR's tenure ended. This resolution limits the number of terms permitted for governors to two. It allows a governor to serve up to 10 years, in the case of a Lieutenant Governor who serves less than two years of a Governor who does not complete his or her term.

Wisconsin has always been the kind of place where any person can run for office and make a difference. But when a governor serves for more than 8 years it leads to the centralization of power.

The centralization of power in the governor's office was evident in Governor Thompson's third term.

DNR Secretary -1995 Governor signed into law making the DNR Secretary a cabinet appointment taking appointment power away from the DNR Board.

Public Intervenor -1995 Governor signed legislation eliminating the Office of the Public Intervenor in the Justice Department leaving the citizens of Wisconsin with limited legal council on environmental issues.

DPI -1995 Governor's budget bill created a new Department of Education with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. The courts eventually ruled the changes to the Department of Public Instruction unconstitutional.

Supreme Court -The Governor appointed 4 Justices to the Supreme Court during his tenure. Three of the current 7 Supreme Court Justices were appointed by Governor Thompson. Giving Executive branch unprecedented influence over the Judicial branch.

School choice - 1998 the Governor won a State Supreme Court case allowing sectarian schools to participate in the school choice program.

The longer a governor serves the more influence he has over every aspect of state government including the legislature, state agencies, boards, commissions etc. The political balance in the Senate and Assembly has changed because of gubernatorial appointment of

members. Not to mention the tremendous fundraising ability that comes with a long tenure.

My resolution does not seek to limit the power of the Governor nor limit its constitutional authority. It is a much-needed check and balance on the power held by one branch of state government.

Sincerely,



LEE P. MEYERHOFER

State Representative

5th Assembly District