Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 118

By Senators Shallenburger, Argabright, Bowser, Clifford, Gossage, Holscher, Klemp, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Rose, Shane, Starnes, Sykes and Thomas

1-30

AN ACT concerning members of the legislature; imposing conditional term limits; requiring nomination by petition for any legislator seeking reelection after having served the maximum number of terms; amending K.S.A. 25-205 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), on and after January 11, 2027:

(1) No individual shall be elected as a member of the house of representatives for more than six two-year terms; and

(2) no individual shall be elected as a member of the senate for more than three four-year terms.

(b) An individual may serve more than the number of terms specified in subsection (a) only if such individual is nominated for such office by petition in accordance with K.S.A. 25-205, and amendments thereto, for each election for such office after such individual has served such specified number of terms.

(c) In determining the number of terms an individual has served:

(1) Only full terms shall be included;

(2) terms served in the house of representatives shall be determined separately from terms served in the senate; and

(3) full terms shall be included whether such terms are served consecutively or nonconsecutively.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-205 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-205. (a) *(1)* Except as otherwise provided in this section, the names of candidates for national, state, county and township offices shall be printed upon the official primary ballot when each shall have qualified to become a candidate by one of the following methods and none other: ~~(1) They~~*(A) Such individual* shall have had filed ~~in their~~ *on such individual's* behalf, not later than 12 noon, June 1, prior to such primary election, or if such date falls on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then before 12 noon of the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, nomination petitions, as provided for in this ~~act~~ *section*; or ~~(2) they~~*(B) such individual* shall have filed not later than the time for filing nomination petitions, as above provided, with the proper officer a declaration of intention to

become a candidate, accompanied by the fee required by law. Such declaration shall be prescribed by the secretary of state.

(2) For any candidate for state representative or state senator who has served the number of terms for such office as specified in section 1, and amendments thereto, such individual's name shall only be printed on the official primary ballot if such individual is qualified to become a candidate by having a nomination petition filed on such individual's behalf in accordance with this section.

(b) *(1)* Nomination petitions shall be in substantially the following form:

I, the undersigned, an elector of the county of _____, and state of Kansas, and a duly registered voter, and a member of _____ party, hereby nominate _____, who resides in the township of _____ (or at number _____ on _____ street, city of _____), in the county of _____ and state of Kansas, as a candidate for the office of (here specify the office) _____, to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the first Tuesday in August in _____, as representing the principles of such party; and I further declare that I intend to support the candidate herein named and that I have not signed and will not sign any nomination petition for any other person, for such office at such primary election.

(HEADING)

Name of Signers.	Street Number or Rural Route	Name of City. (as registered).	Date of Signing.

All nomination petitions shall have substantially the foregoing form, written or printed at the top thereof. No signature shall be counted unless it is upon a sheet having such written or printed form at the top thereof.

(2) If the nomination petition is for a candidate for office and such candidate has served the number of terms specified for such office under section 1, and amendments thereto, then such petition shall also include the following statement: "I understand that the candidate has served the total number of terms for such office as specified in section 1 but desires to be elected to this office."

(c) Each signer of a nomination petition shall sign but one such petition for the same office, and shall declare that such person intends to support the candidate therein named, and shall add to such person's signature and residence, if in a city, by street and number (if any); or, otherwise by post-office address. No signature shall be counted unless the place of residence of the signer is clearly indicated and the date of signing given as herein required and if ditto marks are used to indicate address they shall be continuous and clearly made. Such sheets shall not be cut or

pasted together.

(d) All signers of each separate nomination petition shall reside in the same county and election district of the office sought. The affidavit described in this paragraph of a petition circulator as defined in K.S.A. 25-3608, and amendments thereto, or of the candidate shall be appended to each petition and shall contain, at the end of each set of documents carried by each circulator, a verification, signed by the circulator or the candidate, to the effect that such circulator or the candidate personally witnessed the signing of the petition by each person whose name appears thereon.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (g), nomination petitions shall be signed:

(1) If for a state officer elected on a statewide basis or for the office of United States senator, by voters equal in number to not less than 1% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the state as compiled by the office of the secretary of state;

(2) if for a state or national officer elected on less than a statewide basis, by voters equal in number to not less than 2% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such district as compiled by the office of the secretary of state, except that for the office of district magistrate judge, by not less than 2% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the county in which such office is to be filled as certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto;

(3) if for a county office, by voters equal in number to not less than 3% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such district or county as compiled by the county election officer and certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto; and

(4) if for a township office, by voters equal in number to not less than 3% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such township as compiled by the county election officer and certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto.

(f) Subject to the requirements of K.S.A. 25-202, and amendments thereto, any political organization filing nomination petitions for a majority of the state or county offices, as provided in this act, shall have a separate primary election ballot as a political party and, upon receipt of such nomination petitions, the respective officers shall prepare a separate state and county ballot for such new party in their respective counties or districts thereof in the same manner as is provided for existing parties.

(g) In any year in which districts are reapportioned for the offices of representative in the United States congress, senator and representative in the legislature of the state of Kansas or member of the state board of

education:

(1) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or before May 10, nomination petitions for nomination to such offices shall be signed by voters equal in number to not less than 1% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the district as compiled by the office of the secretary of state.

(2) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or after May 11, nomination petitions for nomination to the following offices shall be signed by registered voters of the party designated in the district equal in number to not less than the following:

(A) For the office of representative in the United States congress 1,000 registered voters;

(B) for the office of member of the state board of education 300 registered voters;

(C) for the office of state senator 75 registered voters; and

(D) for the office of state representative 25 registered voters.

(h) In any year in which districts are reapportioned for the offices of representative in the United States congress, senator and representative in the legislature of the state of Kansas or member of the state board of education:

(1) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or before May 10, the deadline for filing nomination petitions and declarations of intention to become a candidate for such office, accompanied by the fee required by law, shall be 12 noon on June 1, or if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then before 12 noon of the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

(2) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or after May 11, the deadline for filing nomination petitions and declarations of intention to become a candidate for such office, accompanied by the fee required by law, shall be 12 noon on June 10, or if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, then before 12 noon of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

(i) Primary elections for candidates for municipal office shall be held when otherwise required by law. The names of candidates for municipal offices shall be printed upon the official primary ballot in odd-numbered year elections and in even-numbered years when needed. Persons shall become qualified to become a candidate by one of the following methods:

(1) ~~They~~*Such individual* shall have filed, not later than 12 noon, on June 1, prior to such primary election, or if such date falls on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then before 12 noon of the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, nomination petitions, as otherwise

provided by law; or

(2) ~~they~~*such individual* shall have filed, not later than the time for filing nomination petitions, as above provided, with the proper officer a declaration of intention to become a candidate, accompanied by the $20 fee required by law. Such declaration shall be prescribed by the secretary of state as provided in K.S.A. 25-21a03, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-205 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.