Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 143

By Senator Holscher

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AN ACT concerning members of the legislature; imposing term limits; allowing members to serve additional terms conditioned on the vote in the next primary election; amending K.S.A. 25-702 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, no individual shall be elected as a member of the house of representatives or of the senate if such individual has served as a member of the legislature for 16 or more years.

(b) An individual may serve as a member of the legislature for not more than four years in addition to the limit on years of service specified in subsection (a) if such individual is certified as the winning candidate in the next subsequent primary election for the office of state representative or state senator and is certified as receiving not less than 70% of the total votes cast for such office in such election. An individual elected as a member of the house of representatives under this subsection shall be certified as the winning candidate and as receiving not less than 70% of the total votes cast for such office in each of the next two subsequent primary elections for such office in order to serve an additional four years.

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

(1) Both full and partial terms shall be included;

(2) years served in the house of representatives and the senate shall be aggregated; and

(3) years shall be included whether served consecutively or nonconsecutively.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-702 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-702. (a) In all elections for the choice of any officer, except the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, unless ~~it is~~ otherwise expressly provided *by law*, the person having the highest number of votes for any office shall be deemed to have been elected to that office~~; and~~. Whenever it shall satisfactorily appear that any person has received the highest number of votes for any office, such person shall receive the certificate of election, notwithstanding *that* the provisions of law may not have been fully complied with in noticing and conducting the election, so that the real will of the people may not be defeated by any technical irregularity of any

officer.

(b) In all elections for the choice of governor and lieutenant governor, the pair of candidates having the highest number of votes shall be deemed to have been elected. Whenever it shall satisfactorily appear that any pair of candidates has received the highest number of votes for governor and lieutenant governor, such candidates shall receive certificates of election, notwithstanding *that* the provisions of law may not have been fully complied with in noticing and conducting the election, so that the real will of the people may not be defeated by any technical irregularity of any officer.

(c) (1) When any candidate for the office of state representative or state senator seeks election to such office and if so elected would serve an aggregate number of years as a member of the legislature in excess of the limit established under section 1(a), and amendments thereto, such candidate shall not be certified as the winning candidate in any primary election for such office unless such candidate receives not less than 70% of the total votes cast for such office in such election.

(2) If a candidate described in paragraph (1) receives less than 70% of the total votes cast for such office in such election but receives the highest number of votes cast for such office, then the candidate listed on the ballot for such office with the next highest number of votes shall be certified as the winner of such election.

(3) If a candidate described in paragraph (1) receives less than 70% of the total votes cast for such office in such election and there are no other candidates listed on the ballot for such office, then no person shall be certified as the winner of such election.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-702 is hereby repealed.

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