

House Awaits Amendment To Enforce Session Limits

The state constitutional amendment, passed by the Senate, would give state senators four-year terms.

By ASTA YTRER
Staff Writer

A state constitutional amendment that would create time limits for legislative sessions and lengthen senators' terms in office is waiting to be introduced in the N.C. House after being passed in the Senate.

Forty-two senators voted in favor of the bill last week, and only two voted against it - Sen. Virginia Foxx, R-Guilford, and Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Alamance.

Foxx said a law to shorten sessions was needed but that she was opposed to creating a constitutional amendment.

Sen. Brad Miller, D-Wake, chairs the Senate committee that approved the legislation. He said that because of the last lengthy session, legislative action was needed.

Last year's "short" session began in January and lasted up until a week before the November elections, more than three months past the deadline.

"I don't know if limiting legislative sessions is the solution," Miller said.

"At least there would be a constitu-

tional outer time limit. That might help us finish in time."

The second part of the bill aims to lengthen the terms of senators from two years to four years. "If we aren't always campaigning, we can attend better to the work of government," Miller said.

But Foxx said she was also opposed to four-year terms.

"Giving four-year terms to senators is the opposite to ensuring citizen legacy because they don't have to answer to the people as often," she said.

Lee Mortimer, a member of the Washington-based think tank Center for Voting and Democracy, said four-year terms reduced accountability of elected officials to the public.

Instead, politicians should pass a campaign finance reform bill in exchange for getting four-year terms to show accountability to the voters, he said.

"Voters won't give the politicians four-year terms because they aren't getting anything in return," Mortimer said.

Danny Lineberry, spokesman for House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, said that if senators received four-year terms, representa-

tives would want four-year terms as well. "Black is not very excited about the idea of four-year terms for senators," Lineberry said.

"It does not have much chance of passing in referendum."

Lineberry said Black wanted to reduce session length through better management before he considered the amendment.

"Black won't be in favor of the amendment at this point," he said.

Another issue discussed in the original committee was a merging of the House and the Senate into one legislative body.

The initiative was not approved by the committee. Currently, Nebraska has the only one-body legislature in the United States.

"No member took the proposal to merge House and Senate into one body very seriously," Miller said.

If the House passes the bill containing the constitutional amendment, a referendum on the November ballot will decide its fate.

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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LEE MORTIMOR
Center for Voting and Democracy

NITRO

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At the Power Plant, two opponents raced through tunnels and over walls of the velcroed obstacle course. Morehead Finalist David Morris lost to his brother Wil, a UNC student. "I'm out here having some real fun," he said.

The Nitro Knock Out drew the most competitors. In two out of three rounds, participants had to knock their opponents off a pedestal. Nathan Hanna, a freshman chemistry major, showed amazing skill in defeating 11 opponents. "It was unbelievable," he said. "No one could handle it."

Sophomore Kea Parker said she attended the event Sunday because she wanted tickets to Monday Nitro but

could not afford it. After three hours of waiting and hoping, Parker won two tickets to Monday Nitro.

Freshman Matthew Taber conquered the mountain climb while his friends looked on. He said it was hard to get a good grip. "It was hard with everybody screaming and watching," he said.

Taber was ecstatic when he won the trip for two to Panama Beach City, Fla. for Spring Breakout '99. Taber will spend March 20-22 hanging out with the Nitro Girls.

"I thought 'Holy Cow, I'm going to party in Panama City with my brother who's my best friend in the world,'" the business major said. "I hope my teachers understand."

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WRESTLING

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process," Bresloff said.

"College students work all day, and when they come home they want to watch wrestling."

Another wrestling fan, Efrén Saenz, was of the same opinion.

"It's kind of primitive entertainment," said Saenz with a laugh. "But it works."

Saenz, a junior physical education major from Jacksonville, said he enjoyed the social aspect of wrestling. He said he constantly talked about matches and argued with his friends about who was the best wrestler.

Pierce said his group of friends also talked about wrestling. While they

were discussing Nitro in a biology class, some people sitting nearby joined in.

"We made some new friends," he said. "Now we sit and talk about it all the time."

Pierce said wrestling was a form of male bonding.

While men make up the majority of wrestling viewers, many women watch Monday Nitro, making up about 25 percent of the show's viewers, WCW marketing statistics show.

WCW Fan Paige Gillikan said many people were surprised when they found out she watched wrestling.

"A lot of people are like 'you watch wrestling?'" said Gillikan, a junior communication and psychology major from Greenville. "I guess I don't fit the redneck stereotype."

HOOKER

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For a period of time Hooker couldn't be in large crowds because he was easily prone to infections, he said. "The worst time is (days eight through 14 after treatment) because my body is at its lowest point of resistance," he said.

Still, low resistance won't stop Hooker's plans of a trip to South Beach, Fla. with his daughter for Spring Break.

Because of the possibility of catching an infection, he said he would take some small precautions. "I've got to wear a surgical mask on the plane," he said with a laugh. "I'll look like a freak."

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Gillikan and six women in her residence hall watch Monday Nitro every week.

"It's Dawson's Creek every Wednesday and Nitro every Monday," she said. "It's our girl bonding time."

Whether male or female, many college students avidly cheer on the leering rants by masked men and unexpected leaps by greased champions.

Wrestling fans tend to be loyal, said Jeff Tispis, owner of BW-3's.

At the urging of a bartender, the restaurant and bar has shown Monday Nitro for the past two years.

"A small cult following comes in every week," he said. "They hoot and holler and get all into it."

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TRANSITION

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would include in the training would be to inform the soon-to-be treasurer of bills from current and previous administrations.

"That's been frustrating for me and Sara to collect everything that needs to be updated," Davis said.

"Our goal would be to be current on bills hanging over us and beyond that to have a checklist or system, so that the next treasurer will not be caught by surprise."

Dasher said he would likely be on hand to lend advice. "Whoever the next treasurer is, I'd be more than happy to share the information I've learned," he said.

"I've spoken with a few people about the possibility of (helping)."

Dasher said McCollum taught him the Student Activities Fund Office procedures and allowed Dasher to shadow him while he did his job for two weeks.

For training, Dasher said he would model his methods on that of McCollum and add things that he learned while in office. "I would ... make sure to introduce the new treasur-

er to people responsible for the expenditure of student activities fees - the director of the a.p.p.e.s. program, the head of Student Legal Services - people like that."

Reynolds said that though a lot of help would be available, training would still be difficult without a full-time treasurer.

"Brandon and I will be available to help in whatever way we can," she said. "Obviously though, it's going to be harder than last year."

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