

From *The Times-Picayune*:

## **Bill would expand La.'s term-limit rules**

3-term max targets a number of officials

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BATON ROUGE -- All state, parish and local elected officials should be limited to serving no more than three consecutive terms in office, according to an Acadiana legislator who has filed legislation to impose those limits.

Rep. Simone Champagne, D-Jeanerette, Monday filed in advance of the April 27 lawmaking session House Bill 84, a proposed change in the state Constitution putting a maximum three-term limit on all elected officials at the "state, parish, municipal, ward, (or) district" level. The measure would not impose the limits on members of the state's congressional delegation or persons elected to run political parties.

The proposal will need a two-thirds vote to clear both houses of the Legislature; if it survives it would have to be approved by voters in the Nov. 2, 2010, federal election.

If local, parish or state laws already limit an elected official to less than three terms, Champagne's proposal would require the more stringent term limits remain in place. It also would allow a parish or local government to impose term limits of shorter duration than the proposed three-term maximum.

The measure would not change the number of years in a term.

For example, district attorneys and district court judges still would be elected to six-year terms and judges on the appellate courts still would be elected to 10-year terms, but not more than three terms in any case.

Legislators already are limited to three four-year terms in a chamber, but can run for re-election to the other chamber after serving the three terms.

Champagne's proposal would limit the lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of insurance and commissioner of agriculture to no more than three consecutive terms after 2010. Now, incumbents in those offices can serve an unlimited number of terms. The governor already is limited to two-four year terms and that would not change under Champagne's legislation.

Besides members of the Legislature, the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Public Service Commission already are limited to a maximum of three terms in

office. Judges, district attorneys, coroners, clerks of court and assessors -- as well as some local officials -- are not limited to the number of years they can serve, but Champagne's measure would change that.

Champagne could not be reached for comment on her reasons for filing the legislation.

Aides to Gov. Bobby Jindal's office said the governor has not had a chance to review the legislation and declined comment.

So far, 97 bills have been filed in advance of the legislative session.