

Legislative Analysis



TERM LIMITS FOR VILLAGE OFFICERS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4788 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Phil Green
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 6-14-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4788 would amend the General Law Village Act to allow villages to institute term limits on elected village officers. If approved by a majority of village electors, the village would limit terms of office of elected officers as described below.

To initiate the process, a petition requesting a vote on the question of term limits would have to be signed by at least 10% of the village's registered electors and filed with the township clerk. The petition would provide that a person could not be elected to the same village office more than four times for an office with a two-year term or more than two times for an office with a four-year term. (A partial appointed or elected term would be considered a full term for purposes of term limits if the person served more than half of the term.)

Within 14 days after the petition's filing, the township clerk would have to verify the signatures and determine the sufficiency of the petition. If the clerk determined the petition to be sufficient, the question of term limits would have to appear on the next general or special election ballot in substantially the following form:

Shall the terms of office of elected village officers in the village of _____ be limited so that an official shall not be elected to the same village office more than 4 times for an office with a 2-year term of office or more than 2 times for an office with a 4-year term of office?
☐ Yes
☐ No

The county election commission of the county in which the greatest number of village electors reside would provide the ballots for the election. The clerk and township election officials would conduct the election.

If the village term limit question were held in conjunction with a general election or a state primary election immediately before a general election, the notices of the close of registration and election would have to be published as provided by state election law. Otherwise, the clerk of the county where the greatest number of village electors reside would publish the notices. The notices would have to include the ballot language specified above.

The results of the village term limit question would have to be canvassed by the board of county canvassers of the county in which the village is located.

Proposed MCL 62.5b

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and would result in no significant costs for townships or counties. Should a petition succeed in placing the question on the ballot, it would be voted on only at an election already to be held and would not require a township to incur costs to hold a special election when it otherwise would not.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.