

1987-88

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Presented and read a first time, 10 May 1988

(Attorney-General)

A BILL

FOR

An Act to alter the Constitution to provide for 4-year maximum terms for members of both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, with the approval of the electors, as required by the Constitution, as follows:

Short title

- 5 **1.** This Act may be cited as the *Constitution Alteration (Parliamentary Terms) 1988*.

The Senate

2. Section 7 of the Constitution is altered by omitting from the fourth paragraph “senators shall be chosen for a term of six years, and the”.

10 **Times and places**

3. Section 9 of the Constitution is altered by omitting the second paragraph.

Issue of writs

4. Section 12 of the Constitution is altered by omitting “In case of the dissolution of the Senate the writs shall be issued within ten days from the proclamation of such dissolution” and substituting “The writs shall be issued within ten days from the expiry of a House of Representatives or from the proclamation of a dissolution thereof, but so that the polling day shall be the same day as the polling day for the election of members of the House of Representatives”. 5

5. The Constitution is altered by omitting sections 13 and 14 and substituting the following section: 10

Terms of service of senators.

“13. (1) The terms of service of senators expire upon the expiry or dissolution of the House of Representatives.

“(2) Subsection (1) applies in relation to the term of service of any senator, including: 15

- (a) a senator holding office at the commencement of this section; and
- (b) a senator chosen or appointed after that commencement in consequence of a vacancy existing at that commencement;

but, in the case of a senator appointed by the Governor of a State, this section does not extend the term of the appointment after the expiration of fourteen days from the beginning of the next session of the Parliament of the State following the making of the appointment.”. 20

Duration of House of Representatives

6. Section 28 of the Constitution is altered: 25

- (a) by omitting “three years” and substituting “four years”; and
- (b) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

“In relation to a House of Representatives whose first meeting occurred before the commencement of the *Constitution Alteration (Parliamentary Terms) 1988*, the last preceding paragraph has effect as if the reference to four years were a reference to three years.”. 30