

Proposal for

Federal Political Appointee Utilization and Service Enhancement Act

Whereas, the current absence of term limits and a cooling-off period for federal political appointees may lead to stagnation and the entrenchment of political interests, potentially undermining the democratic principles of equal opportunity and fair representation;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1: Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "FEDPAUSE Act."

Section 2: Findings and Purpose

(a) Findings:

Congress finds that

(i) The establishment of term limits and a cooling-off period for federal political appointees is essential to promote fresh perspectives in government and prevent the entrenchment of political interests.

(ii) The implementation of a term limit and a cooling-off period will encourage a regular influx of new ideas and expertise in the federal government, thereby enhancing its effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the American people.

(iii) The separation of political appointees from the federal government for a significant period after their service will allow them to gain valuable outside experience and prevent conflicts of interest.

(iv) The enforcement of term limits and a cooling-off period is consistent with the spirit of democratic governance and the need for a government that is accountable to its citizens.

(b) Purpose:

The purpose of this Act is to establish a term limit of 10 years for federal political appointees and a 10-year cooling-off period before they can work for the federal government again, with the exception of active-duty military personnel. This legislation aims to prevent the establishment of a permanent political class, promote fresh perspectives in government, and ensure the effectiveness and accountability of government to the American people.

Section 3: Definitions

(a) "Political Appointee" means any individual appointed to a position in the federal government by the President, the Vice President, or an agency head, or by a person exercising the authority of the President or Vice President.

(b) "Active Duty Military" means any member of the armed forces of the United States who is serving on full-time active duty.

Section 4: Term Limits.

(a) A Political Appointee may serve in their position for a maximum of 10 years.

(b) Upon reaching the 10-year limit, the Political Appointee must leave their position and may not be reappointed to any federal government position for a period of 10 years, unless they are elected to a federal office.

(c) This term limit does not apply to individuals serving in active-duty military positions.



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Section 5: Cooling-Off Period.

- (a) After leaving their position, a Political Appointee is subject to a 10-year cooling-off period, during which they may not be employed by or provide services to the federal government unless they are elected to a federal office.
- (b) This cooling-off period does not apply to individuals serving in active-duty military positions.

Section 6: Penalties for Violations

Any Political Appointee found to be in violation of this Act shall be subject to removal from their position and may be barred from future federal employment.

Section 7: Effective Date

This Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of its enactment.

Section 8: Severability

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 9: Repeals

Any provisions of existing laws or regulations that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 10: Implementation

The Office of Personnel Management shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with this Act.