

Present constitution (Art. III, Section 2(A)) provides that the legislature shall meet annually in regular session. Provides that, during any regular session, any bill to be introduced must be prefiled no later than 5 p.m. of the Friday before the first day of the session. Permits each member of the legislature to introduce not more than five bills which were not prefiled. (The legislature is authorized to provide for exceptions to this limitation by joint rule.) Present constitution (Art. XIII, Section 1) provides that a constitutional amendment must be prefiled at least 10 days prior to the regular session at which it is to be considered.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the prefiling deadline for bills to 5 p.m. on the tenth calendar day prior to the first day of a regular session.

Present constitution provides that in odd-numbered years the regular session convenes at noon on the last Monday in March and that in even-numbered years the regular session convenes at noon on the last Monday in April.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the convening day in **even-numbered** years to the last Monday in March and the convening day in **odd-numbered** years to the last Monday in April.

Present constitution provides that in odd-numbered years the length of the regular session is not more than 60 legislative days during a period of 85 calendar days.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the length of the regular session in even-numbered years to not more than 60 legislative days in a period of 85 calendar days.

Present constitution provides that in even-numbered years the length of the regular session is not more than 30 legislative days in a period of 45 calendar days.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the length of the regular session in an odd-numbered year to not more than 45 legislative days during a period of 60 calendar days.

Present constitution provides that in regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years the deadline for the introduction of bills is midnight of the 30th calendar day.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the deadline for introduction in even-numbered years to 6 p.m. of the 23rd calendar day.

Present constitution provides that in regular sessions convening in even-numbered years the deadline for the introduction of bills is midnight of the 10th calendar day.

Proposed constitutional amendment changes the deadline for introduction in odd-numbered years to 6 p.m. of the 10th calendar day.

Present constitution provides that in regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years, the deadline for consideration on third reading and final passage of matters intended to have the effect of law is midnight of the 55th legislative day (except by 2/3 vote of both houses). (NOTE: Measures

proposing a suspension of law are not subject to the deadline.)

Proposed constitutional amendment changes that deadline in even-numbered years to 6 p.m. of the 57th legislative day or the 82nd calendar day, whichever occurs first (except by 2/3 vote of both houses).

Present constitution provides that in a regular session convening in even-numbered years, the deadline for third reading and final passage of matters intended to have the effect of law is midnight of the 27th legislative day (except by 2/3 vote of both houses). (NOTE: Measures proposing a suspension of law are not subject to the deadline.)

Proposed constitutional amendment changes that deadline in odd-numbered years to 6 p.m. of the 42nd legislative day or the 57th calendar day, whichever occurs first (except by 2/3 vote of both houses).

Present constitution further provides that all regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall be restricted to the consideration of legislation which provides for the enactment of a general appropriations bill, implementation of a capital budget, for making an appropriation, levying or authorizing a new tax, increasing an existing tax, legislating with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, reductions, repeal, or credits, or issuing bonds.

Proposed constitutional amendment removes the subject matter restrictions on sessions convening in even-numbered years in the present constitution and makes those restrictions applicable to sessions convening in **odd-numbered years**. Additionally, proposed constitutional amendment provides for the consideration in such sessions of legislation if its object is to levy, authorize, increase, decrease, or repeal a fee, or to dedicate revenue, or to enact a local or special law, provided such local or special bill is required to be and has been advertised in accordance with the present constitution and is not otherwise a prohibited local or special law as provided by the present constitution. Additionally, proposed constitutional amendment allows the consideration of five prefiled bills per member which are not within the subject matter jurisdiction for the session.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election on November 5, 2002 and specifies that it shall be the first ballot proposition for constitutional amendments to appear on the ballot for such election.

(Amends Const. Art. III, §2(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Changes the convening day of regular sessions in odd-numbered years from the last Monday in March to the last Wednesday in March.
2. Changes the convening day of regular sessions in even-numbered years from the third Monday in April to the third Wednesday in April.
3. Changes the length of regular sessions in odd-numbered years

from not more than 60 legislative days during a period of 85 calendar days to not more than 60 days during a period of 80 consecutive calendar days.

4. Changes the length of regular session in even-numbered years from not more than 45 legislative days in a period of 60 calendar days to 40 legislative days in a period of 50 consecutive calendar days.
5. Changes the option of the deadline for consideration on 3rd reading and final passage of legislation during an odd-numbered year from the 82nd calendar day to the 77th calendar day if such day occurs prior to the deadline of 6 p.m. on the 57th legislative day.
6. Changes the deadline for consideration on 3rd and final passage of legislation during an even-numbered year from 6 p.m. of the 43rd legislative day or the 58th calendar day, whichever comes first to 6 p.m. on the 38th legislative day or the 48th calendar day, whichever comes first.
7. Changes the limits on payments of per diem to members in regular sessions from 85 days to 80 days in odd-numbered years and from 60 days to 40 days in even-numbered years.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the reengrossed bill.

1. Changes general sessions to even-numbered years and fiscal sessions to odd-numbered years.
2. Provides that the deadline to prefile bills for a session shall 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day before the first day of the session. (Reengrossed bill would have changed deadline to 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before the first day.)
3. Removes proposed changes to the day when each annual session is to convene. (Reengrossed bill would have changed the day from Monday to Wednesday.)
4. Increases fiscal sessions to a maximum of 45 legislative days in a 60 calendar day period. (Reengrossed bill would have provided a 40 legislative day limit.)
5. Sets the deadlines for third reading and final passage of bills in a general session at 6:00 pm on the 57th legislative day or 82nd calendar day, whichever occurs first. (Reengrossed bill would have made these deadlines the 55th and 77th such days.)
6. Sets the deadlines for third reading and final passage of bills in a fiscal session at 6:00 pm on the 42nd legislative day or 57th calendar day, whichever occurs first. (Reengrossed bill would have made these deadlines the 42nd and 57th such days.)
7. Removes proposed language restricting the number of days of

per diem allowed to legislators.

8. Removes proposed language allowing the legislature to modify by joint rule certain provisions of the constitution relating to legislative sessions.
9. Removes language making session limit on number of days a limit on consecutive days.
10. Restates the ballot language to accurately reflect the proposed constitutional amendment.