
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Yolanda Johnson Dixon.

DIGEST

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 (not constitutional amendments) to 5 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the first day of a regular session. Proposed constitutional amendment additionally specifies that no regular session shall continue beyond June 30th of any year.

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 third Monday in April.

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 even-numbered years to not more than 45 legislative days in a period of 60 calendar days.

Proposed constitutional amendment limits payment of per diem to members in regular sessions to 85 days in an odd-numbered year and to 60 days in an even-numbered year.

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 that deadline 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 that deadline 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 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 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 to 6 p.m. of the 43rd legislative day or the 58th 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 includes the same subject matter restrictions as are provided in the present constitution but additionally 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.

Proposed constitutional amendment allows the legislature to modify by joint rule adopted by a 2/3 vote of both houses, the provisions of the constitution relating to legislative sessions, except for the restrictions on the number of legislative days in a regular session, the fact that the legislature meets in annual regular sessions, the definition of a legislative day, the fact that a regular session cannot continue beyond June 30th of any year, the limit on the number of days per diem may be paid to members during regular sessions, and the subject matter restrictions for each session.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the congressional primary election in 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))