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

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Hines (SB 245)

DIGEST

Present constitution 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 5:00 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. Provides that the legislature is authorized to provide for exceptions to this limitation by joint rule.

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

Proposed constitutional amendment provides instead that during such a regular session no matter intended to have the effect of law, including a suspension of law, shall be considered unless it provides for the same subject matters as are allowed in the present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that a legislative instrument intended to have the effect of law which would otherwise be considered during a regular session in odd-numbered years may be considered at any such session if it is prefiled no later than 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the first day of the session, and prohibits a member from prefiling more than five such instruments.

Proposed constitutional amendment additionally provides that a legislative instrument intended to have the effect of law may be considered during a fiscal session if it provides for the enactment of a local or special law which has been duly advertised.

Present constitution also provides that during a regular session in an even-numbered year no new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be introduced after midnight of the 10th calendar day and that during a regular session in an odd-numbered year no new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be introduced after midnight of the 30th calendar day. Present constitution (Art. III, §20) specifically excepts measures suspending a law from these time limitations for introduction.

Proposed constitutional amendment specifically retains this exception from the time limitations for introduction.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the gubernatorial primary election in 1999.

(Amends Article III, Section 2(A))