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## DIGEST

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HB 189 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Ritchie

**Abstract:** Changes the years "general" legislative sessions are to convene from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years and the years the "restricted, fiscal" legislative sessions are to convene from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

Present constitution provides that in even-numbered years the regular session of the legislature convenes at noon on the second Monday in March, in which the legislature shall meet for not more than 60 legislative days during a period of 85 calendar days. Present constitution prohibits the introduction or enactment of any measure levying or authorizing a new tax or increasing an existing tax by the state or by any statewide political subdivision, or legislating with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, or credits during a regular session convening in an even-numbered year. Proposed constitutional amendment changes the convening of this "general" regular legislative session to odd-numbered years and otherwise retains present constitution.

Present constitution provides that in odd-numbered years the legislature shall convene at noon on the second Monday in April, in which the legislature shall meet for not more than 45 legislative days during a period of 60 calendar days. Present constitution provides that during any session convening in an odd-numbered year, no matter shall be introduced or considered unless its object is to enact the General Appropriation Bill or the comprehensive capital budget, to make an appropriation, levy or authorize a new tax, increase an existing tax, levy, authorize, increase, decrease, or repeal a fee, dedicate revenue, legislate with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, reductions, repeals, or credits, or legislate with regard to the issuance of bonds. Provides exceptions to this subject matter limitation, including allowing members to prefile up to five "general" matters and local and special bills which are required to be advertised. Proposed constitutional amendment changes the convening of this "restricted, fiscal" regular legislative session to even-numbered years and otherwise retains present constitution.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held October 24, 2015.

(Amends Article III, §2(A)(3) and (4))