Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 373

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to legislative sessions and bill introduction limits

1	A JOINT RESOLUTION
2	Proposing to amend Article III, Section 2(A)(3) and (4) and to add Article III, Section
3	2(A)(5) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to legislative sessions;
4	to provide for the length and date of convening of a regular session in an even-
5	numbered year; to provide deadlines for introducing and considering certain matters
6	in a regular session in an even-numbered year; to limit the number of certain matters
7	that may be introduced during a regular session in an even-numbered year; to
8	provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide
9	for related matters.
10	Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members
11	elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of
12	Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to
13	amend Article III, Section 2(A)(3) and (4) and to add Article III, Section 2(A)(5) of the
14	Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:
15	§2. Sessions
16	Section 2.(A) Annual Session.
17	* * *
18	(3)(a) (3) All regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall be
19	general in nature and shall convene at noon on the second Monday in March April.
20	The legislature shall meet in such a session for not more than sixty forty-five

1 legislative days during a period of eighty-five sixty calendar days. No such session 2 shall continue beyond six o'clock in the evening of the eighty-fifth sixtieth calendar 3 day after convening. No new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be 4 introduced or received by either house after six o'clock in the evening of the twenty-5 third tenth calendar day. No matter intended to have the effect of law, except a measure proposing a suspension of law, shall be considered on third reading and 6 7 final passage in either house after six o'clock in the evening of the fifty-seventh 8 forty-second legislative day or the eighty-second fifty-seventh calendar day, 9 whichever occurs first, except by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected 10 members of each house.

(b) (4)(a) All regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall be general in nature. No measure levying or authorizing a new tax by the state or by any statewide political subdivision whose boundaries are coterminous with the state; increasing an existing tax by the state or by any statewide political subdivision whose boundaries are coterminous with the state; whose boundaries are coterminous with the state; or legislating with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions or credits, shall be introduced or enacted during a regular session held in an even-numbered year.

(b) Except as provided in Subsubparagraph (c) of this Subparagraph, no
 member of the legislature may introduce more than ten matters intended to have the
 effect of law in a regular session convening in an even-numbered year.

(c) The limitation provided in Subsubparagraph (b) of this Subparagraph
 shall not apply to a matter intended to have the effect of law the object of which is
 to enact a local or special law which is required to be and has been advertised in
 accordance with Section 13 of this Article and which is not prohibited by the
 provisions of Section 12 of this Article.

26 (4)(a) All regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years shall convene
 27 at noon on the second Monday in April. The legislature shall meet in such a session
 28 for not more than forty-five legislative days in a period of sixty calendar days. No
 29 such session shall continue beyond six o'clock in the evening of the sixtieth calendar

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- 1day after convening. No new matter intended to have the effect of law shall be2introduced or received by either house after six o'clock in the evening of the tenth3calendar day. No matter intended to have the effect of law, except a measure4proposing a suspension of law, shall be considered on third reading and final passage5in either house after six o'clock in the evening of the forty-second legislative day or6fifty-seventh calendar day, whichever occurs first, except by a favorable record vote7of two-thirds of the elected members of each house.
- 8 (b) (5) During any session convening in an odd-numbered year, no matter 9 intended to have the effect of law, including any suspension of law, shall be 10 introduced or considered unless its object is to enact the General Appropriation Bill; 11 enact the comprehensive capital budget; make an appropriation; levy or authorize a 12 new tax; increase an existing tax; levy, authorize, increase, decrease, or repeal a fee; 13 dedicate revenue; legislate with regard to tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, 14 reductions, repeals, or credits; or legislate with regard to the issuance of bonds. In 15 addition, a matter intended to have the effect of law, including a measure proposing 16 a suspension of law, which is not within the subject matter restrictions provided in 17 this Subparagraph may be considered at any such session if:
- 18 (i) (a) It is prefiled no later than the deadline provided in Subparagraph (2)
 19 of this Paragraph, provided that the member shall not prefile more than five such
 20 matters pursuant to this Subsubparagraph; or
- (ii) (b) Its object is to enact a local or special law which is required to be and
 has been advertised in accordance with Section 13 of this Article and which is not
 prohibited by the provisions of Section 12 of this Article.

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Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 4,
2014.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted

1 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as

2	fol	lows:
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3	Do you support an amendment to shorten the maximum length of a regular
4	session in an even-numbered year from sixty legislative days in eighty-five
5	calendar days to forty-five legislative days in sixty calendar days, make
6	related changes to deadlines for introducing and considering certain matters
7	in such sessions, and move the date on which such sessions convene from the
8	second Monday in March to the second Monday in April, all to be the same
9	as regular sessions in odd-numbered years, and to limit to ten the number of
10	matters that are not local or special that a member of the legislature may
11	introduce during a regular session in an even-numbered year? (Amends
12	Article III, Section 2(A)(3) and (4); Adds Article III, Section 2(A)(5))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Carter

HB No. 373

Abstract: Shortens the maximum length of regular sessions in even-numbered years and limits to 10 the number of matters that are not local or special that a member of the legislature may introduce during such sessions.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides separately for regular sessions in odd-numbered and evennumbered years. Provides that regular sessions in odd-numbered years convene at noon on the second Mon. in April and last for no more than 45 legislative days in a period of 60 calendar days. Provides related deadlines for introducing and considering certain matters. Limits the introduction of matters to certain specified fiscal matters; provides exceptions for local and special matters and for up to five general matters that are prefiled.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that regular sessions in even-numbered years are general in nature. Prohibits the introduction of certain specified measures involving certain taxes. <u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> retains <u>present constitution</u>.

<u>Present constitution</u> provides that regular sessions in even-numbered years convene at noon on the second Mon. in March and last for no more than 60 legislative days in a period of 85 calendar days. Provides for related deadlines for introducing and considering certain matters.

<u>Proposed constitutional amendment</u> shortens the maximum length of regular sessions in even-numbered years from 60 legislative days in 85 calendar days to 45 legislative days in 60 calendar days, makes related changes to deadlines for introducing and considering certain

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matters in those sessions, and moves the date on which the session convenes, all to be the same as regular sessions in odd-numbered years. Additionally, limits to ten the number of matters that are not local or special that a member of the legislature may introduce during a regular session in an even-numbered year.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 4, 2014.

(Amends Art. III, §2(A)(3) and (4); Adds Art. III, §2(A)(5))