
DIGEST

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HB 541 Original

2018 Regular Session

Stokes

Abstract: Removes all distinction between regular sessions held in even-numbered and odd-numbered years in favor of regular sessions without subject matter limitations utilizing the 60-day calendar currently used for even-numbered years.

Present constitution provides that regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall be general in nature and 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.

Present constitution provides that during regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years 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; it is a local or special law; or if it is one of no more than five general bills prefiled by a member.

Present constitution provides that regular sessions convening in even-numbered years shall convene at noon on the second Monday in March for not more than 60 legislative days during a period of 85 calendar days. Provides for adjournment and for deadlines for introduction and consideration of new matters intended to have the effect of law.

Present constitution provides that regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years shall convene at noon on the second Monday in April for not more than 45 legislative days during a period of 60 calendar days. Provides for adjournment and for deadlines for introduction and consideration of new matters intended to have the effect of law.

Proposed constitutional amendment repeals all present constitution provisions relative to regular sessions convening in odd-numbered years and all restrictions on the subject matter of items introduced or considered during a regular session. Proposed constitutional amendment makes calendar and deadlines applicable to even-numbered years in present constitution applicable to all regular sessions.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 6, 2018.

(Amends Const. Art. III, §2(A)(3); Repeals Const. Art. III, §2(A)(4))