
DIGEST

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HB 166 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Gregory Miller

Abstract: Clarifies that the deadline for gubernatorial action on a bill is based upon the legislative session in which the bill passed, provides that veto sessions, if necessary, convene on the 40th day after final adjournment of the session in which the vetoed bill passed, and provides that if already in session, the legislature may consider vetoed bills without the necessity of convening a separate veto session.

Present constitution provides that if governor does not approve a bill, he may veto it. Provides that a bill shall become law if the governor signs it or if he fails to sign or veto it within 10 days after delivery to him if the legislature is in session on the 10th day after such delivery, or within 20 days after delivery if the 10th day after delivery occurs after the legislature is adjourned. Provides that if the governor vetoes a bill, he shall return it to the legislature, with his veto message within 12 days after delivery to him if the legislature is in session and if the governor returns a vetoed bill after the legislature adjourns, he shall return it, with his veto message, as provided by law.

Proposed constitutional amendment relates the deadline for gubernatorial action on a bill and the deadline for the governor returning a vetoed bill to the legislature to the session in which the bill passed and otherwise retains the present constitution.

Present constitution provides that unless a majority of the elected members of either house has declared in writing that a veto session is unnecessary, the legislature shall meet in veto session in the state capital at noon on the 40th day following final adjournment of the most recent session to consider all bills vetoed by the governor. Further provides that no veto session shall exceed five calendar days, and any veto session may be finally adjourned prior to the end of the fifth day upon the vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house.

Proposed constitutional amendment relative to the timing of veto sessions, changes "most recent session" to "each session in which a bill that finally passed was vetoed". Specifies that the purpose of a veto session is to consider all bills passed that were vetoed by the governor and that were not reconsidered by the house of origin during the session in which the bill passed. Further authorizes the legislature, if a veto session is to be held and the time period for the conduct of the veto session occurs during a regular or extraordinary session, to reconsider the vetoed bills not previously reconsidered, as part of the business of the regular or extraordinary session without the necessity of convening or adjourning a separate veto session.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2022.

(Amends La. Const. Art. III, §18)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add veto session provisions to clarify timing, to specify the vetoed bills to be considered are those not previously reconsidered, and to authorize the legislature, if already in session during the veto session time period, to reconsider vetoed bills without convening a separate veto session.