
DIGEST

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HB 49 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Allows the legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to extend a regular session in increments of two legislative or calendar days up to a maximum of six calendar days beyond the original sine die adjournment time and date if necessary to pass a bill appropriating money.

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. Specifies that no such session shall continue beyond 6 p.m. of the 85th calendar day after convening. Present constitution prohibits consideration of any matter having the effect of law, except a measure proposing a suspension of law, beyond the 57th legislative day or the 82nd calendar day, except by a two-thirds vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

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. Specifies that no such session shall continue beyond 6 p.m. of the 60th calendar day after convening. Present constitution prohibits consideration of any matter having the effect of law, except a measure proposing a suspension of law, beyond the 42nd legislative day or the 57th calendar day, except by a two-thirds vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that if necessary to finally pass a bill appropriating money, the legislature, by a favorable record vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house, may extend a regular session in increments of two legislative or calendar days. Prohibits the legislature from considering any matter having the effect of law other than a bill appropriating money during such an extension and prohibits a regular session from being extended more than six calendar days beyond the original time and day for the session to adjourn sine die. Makes technical changes and otherwise retains present constitution.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 5, 2024.

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