

March 27, 2007

S 1535. LEGISLATIVE REFORM OMNIBUS. Filed 3/27/07. *AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO LIMIT THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE TO FOUR TWO-YEAR TERMS IN THAT OFFICE, TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER, TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, AND TO ESTABLISH A STUDY ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION.*

Subject to approval of the voters in November 2008, amends Sections 2, 4, and 8 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution to provide for the election of legislators to the House of Representatives and the Senate every four years, beginning with the 2008 election. Amends various sections of the state constitution to require that elections for the Governor, the Lt. Governor, clerks of superior court, district attorneys, and the filling of vacancies in various office be held at the same time and places as election of members of the United States House of Representatives. Amends Section 9 of Article II to provide that the term of office of state senators and representatives commences on the first Wednesday in December (was, first day in January) following their election.

Amends Sections 14 and 15 of the NC constitution to direct the state House of Representatives to elect its Speaker and other officers, and the Senate to elect its President Pro Tempore and other officers, when the regular session convenes after the terms of legislators' offices begin and every two years thereafter when the General Assembly convenes for its second Regular Session of the legislators' four-year term. Limits the terms of Speaker and President Pro Tempore to four consecutive regular sessions of the General Assembly.

Amends Section 11(1) of Article II to direct the General Assembly to meet in regular session after the terms of office of senators and representatives commence and to limit the regular session to 90 days in odd-numbered years and 45 days in even-numbered years, beginning with the regular session in 2009. The period may be extended by joint resolution once per regular session for no more than 10 calendar days. An organizational session of up to two days followed by a period of adjournment of at least 33 days is excluded from the calculation of the time limit. Reconvened sessions called by the Governor are excluded from the calculation of time limit.

Establishes the twelve-member Study Commission on Legislative Compensation to study the compensation of members of the General Assembly and submit a report to the General Assembly by May 1, 2008.

Intro. by Graham.

CONST, STUDY