

February 11, 2009

S 156. SESSION LIMITS. Filed 2/11/09. *TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EARLIER CONVENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ORGANIZATION.*

Subject to approval by the voters at the next statewide election, primary or otherwise, amends Section 11(1) of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution (Constitution) to limit the length of the legislative sessions, and amends Section 9 of Article II of the Constitution to provide for an earlier commencing of the Senators' and Representatives' terms of office.

Provides that the General Assembly is to meet in regular session *after the term of office for Senators and Representatives begins in 2010* (was, in 1973) and every two years thereafter on the day prescribed by law.

Provides that during odd-numbered years, beginning with the 2011 regular session, that the General Assembly is to remain in session for no more than 90 calendar days, but permits the period to be extended by joint resolution for no more than 10 calendar days once per regular session. Also provides that the month of December, beginning with the first Wednesday in the month in each preceding even-numbered year, is also included in the calculation of the limit on the number of days that the General Assembly may meet in odd-numbered years. Additionally, provides that if the General Assembly meets initially for not more than two consecutive calendar days upon the convening of the regular session and then adjourns for not less than 30 calendar days, the period of adjournment is not counted in the maximum number of days that the General Assembly may meet in that year.

Provides that during even-numbered years the General Assembly is to remain in session for no more than 45 calendar days, but permits the period to be extended by joint resolution for no more than 10 calendar days once per regular session. Excludes the month of December, beginning on the first Wednesday in the month of each even-numbered year, from the calculation of the maximum number of days that the General Assembly may meet in that year.

Excludes any reconvened session called under Section 5 of Article II of the Constitution from the calculations session limits.

Directs that the General Assembly may not take any valid action other than a resolution or adjournment after the time limits described in this proposed amendment have expired.

Provides that the term of office for Senators and Representatives is to begin on the first Wednesday in December (was, on the first day of January) after their election.

Provides that if a majority of votes are cast in favor of the amendment, the amendments became effective upon certification of the amendments to the Secretary of State by the State Board of Elections.

Intro. by Berger of Rockingham.

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