

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE
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S.B. 462
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45253-MCy-94

Short Title: Const Amend: Legislative Terms/Compensation. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Burgin (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO MODIFY THE
3 LENGTH OF TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE
4 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE
5 LENGTH OF THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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8 **PART I. COMPENSATION AND ALLOWANCE MODIFICATIONS**

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 16 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
10 rewritten:

11 "**Sec. 16. ~~Compensation~~ Limitations on compensation and allowances.**

12 (1) The members ~~and officers~~ of the General Assembly shall receive compensation for
13 their services ~~the compensation and allowances prescribed by law. An increase in the~~
14 ~~compensation or allowances of members shall become effective at the beginning of the next~~
15 ~~regular session of the General Assembly following the session at which it was enacted.~~ that is
16 equal to the average annual salary of public school teachers paid from State funds as determined
17 by the National Education Association which pay shall begin on July 1 of each fiscal year. The
18 members of the General Assembly shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel reimbursement
19 that is consistent with similar allowances for State employees.

20 (2) The officers of the General Assembly who are not members of the General Assembly
21 shall receive for their services the compensation and allowances prescribed by law."

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** The amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section shall be
23 submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on
24 November 3, 2026, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing
25 elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

26 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

27 Constitutional amendment to set the annual salary for members of the General
28 Assembly in an amount that is equal to the average salary for classroom teachers and to set the
29 travel, subsistence, and per diem rates at the rates paid for State employees."

30 **SECTION 1.(c)** The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the
31 referendum conducted under subsection (b) of this section. If a majority of votes cast on the
32 question are in favor of the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of
33 State shall enroll the amendment among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of
34 votes cast on the question are against the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section, the
35 amendment shall have no effect.



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(c) Even-numbered years. – If the regular session meets in even-numbered years, the General Assembly shall remain in regular session for no more than 90 calendar days, except that this period may be extended by joint resolution once per regular session in an even-numbered year for not more than 10 calendar days.

(d) Reconvened sessions called under Section 5 of Article III of this Constitution and sessions required in response to orders of a court in which only matters responding to the court order are considered shall be excluded from the calculations of this section.

(e) Neither house shall proceed upon public business unless a majority of all of its members are actually present.

(f) No valid action, other than a resolution of adjournment, may be taken by the General Assembly in a regular session after the time limits prescribed in this section have expired."

SECTION 3.(b) The amendment set out in this section shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

"[] FOR [] AGAINST

Constitutional amendment limiting the length of regular legislative sessions to 120 calendar days in odd-numbered years and 90 calendar days in even-numbered years."

SECTION 3.(c) The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the referendum conducted under subsection (b) of this section. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are against the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section, the amendment shall have no effect.

SECTION 3.(d) If the certification from the State Board of Elections under subsection (c) of this section reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section, the amendment set out in subsection (a) of this section is effective upon certification.

PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.