

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 1356

INTRODUCER: Senator Flores

SUBJECT: Legislature

DATE: March 22, 2013

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carlton	Roberts	EE	Pre-meeting
2.			JU	
3.			RC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

SB 1356 would require that the Regular Session of the Legislature convene on January 22, 2014.

This bill creates a new unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The time to convene the 60-day Regular Session¹ of the Legislature is prescribed by the State Constitution. Specifically, Subsection (b) of Section 3 of Article III of the State Constitution provides:

A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, or such other date as may be fixed by law, of each even-numbered year.²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1356 would require that the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature convene on January 22, 2014. The 60-day Regular Session could not extend beyond Sunday, March 23, 2014.³

¹ The length of the Regular Session is prescribed in Article III, s. 3(d), Florida Constitution.

² Article III, s. 3(b), Florida Constitution.

³ Historically, the Legislative Session concludes on a Friday. Therefore, it would be reasonable to conclude that the actual final day of session would occur on March 21, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill would require the Legislature to enact the state budget 6 weeks earlier than otherwise would be required.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.