

By Representative Bitner

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of Article III of the State Constitution, relating to the Legislature, to limit the subjects that may be considered at certain sessions of the Legislature.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 3 of Article III of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at any earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

SECTION 3. Sessions of the legislature.--

(a) ORGANIZATION SESSIONS. On the fourteenth day following each general election the legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers.

(b) REGULAR SESSIONS.

(1) 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) The legislature shall devote the regular session of each odd-numbered year to the preparation of a budget and to the monitoring and evaluation of state program performance

1 and effectiveness. Special program review emphasis shall be
2 given to those programs that have become fully operational
3 with performance budgeting as provided by general law. The
4 legislature by general law shall limit the introduction of
5 bills on any other subject during regular sessions held in
6 odd-numbered years, and general law may not authorize the
7 introduction of a bill unless it is necessary to respond to a
8 specific threat to the public health, safety, and welfare and
9 a delay in legislative response would result in an
10 unreasonable risk of death or harm to persons or damage to
11 property.

12 (c) SPECIAL SESSIONS.

13 (1) The governor, by proclamation stating the purpose,
14 may convene the legislature in special session during which
15 only such legislative business may be transacted as is within
16 the purview of the proclamation, or of a communication from
17 the governor, or is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the
18 membership of each house.

19 (2) A special session of the legislature may be
20 convened as provided by law.

21 (d) LENGTH OF SESSIONS. A regular session of the
22 legislature shall not exceed sixty consecutive days, and a
23 special session shall not exceed twenty consecutive days,
24 unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of
25 each house. During such an extension no new business may be
26 taken up in either house without the consent of two-thirds of
27 its membership.

28 (e) ADJOURNMENT. Neither house shall adjourn for more
29 than seventy-two consecutive hours except pursuant to
30 concurrent resolution.

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1 (f) ADJOURNMENT BY GOVERNOR. If, during any regular
2 or special session, the two houses cannot agree upon a time
3 for adjournment, the governor may adjourn the session sine die
4 or to any date within the period authorized for such session;
5 provided that, at least twenty-four hours before adjourning
6 the session, he shall, while neither house is in recess, give
7 each house formal written notice of his intention to do so,
8 and agreement reached within that period by both houses on a
9 time for adjournment shall prevail.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
11 placed on the ballot:

12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

13 ARTICLE III, SECTION 3

14 LIMITING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.--Proposing an amendment to
15 the State Constitution to require the Legislature to devote
16 each odd-year regular session to preparing a budget and
17 monitoring and evaluating state program performance and
18 effectiveness and to require the Legislature to limit other
19 matters to be introduced in such sessions.
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