

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB 1714

SPONSOR: Senator Webster

SUBJECT: Legislature/Convening Date/2002

DATE: April 5, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Guthrie	Kassack	RC	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides that the regular session of the Legislature in 2002 will convene on Wednesday, January 23. It takes effect upon becoming a law.

II. Present Situation:

The regular session of the Legislature in 2002 will convene March 5, unless the Legislature exercises its authority to set another date (Art. III, s.3, Fla. Const.). During the regular session in 2002, the Legislature will apportion the state into senatorial and representative districts (Art. III, s. 16, Fla. Const.). The Legislature will map districts for the 25 representatives in Congress apportioned to Florida based on the 2000 Census.

Senatorial and representative districts are enacted by a joint resolution, which is not subject to review by the Governor, but must be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. Congressional districts are enacted by general law and are subject to review by the Governor.

Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act covers five Florida counties (Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe). Laws affecting voting in those jurisdictions, including statewide redistricting plans, are subject to administrative preclearance or judicial review before they take effect.

The process of review by the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. Department of Justice can take 3½ months or more. Qualifying for federal office occurs July 8-12, 2002, and qualifying for state office occurs July 15-19, 2002. See, s. 99.061(1) and (8), F.S.

In 1981 and 1991, the Legislature enacted bills that moved forward the starting date of the regular session for reapportionment to January 18, 1982, and January 14, 1992. See, ch. 81-110 and 91-90, Laws of Florida.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill provides that the regular session of the Legislature in 2002 will convene January 23, instead of March 5, 2002.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

See Present Situation.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
