

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	CS/HB 9	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:	
SPONSOR(S):	State Affairs Committee; Nunez and others	93 Y's	22 N's
COMPANION BILLS:	CS/SB 72	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 9 passed the house on March 27, 2014. The bill was amended by the Senate on May 1, 2014, and subsequently passed the House on May 2, 2014. The bill sets in law the start date for the 2016 Regular Legislative Session.

The State Constitution provides that, in odd-numbered years, the regular session of the Legislature must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. The State Constitution, however, permits the Legislature to fix by law the date for convening the regular legislative session for each even-numbered year. The Legislature has not fixed a date in law; as such, the regular legislative session for all years convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

The bill requires the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature to convene on January 12, 2016.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local government.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 13, 2014, ch. 2014-106, L.O.F., and became effective on that date.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Background

The State Constitution prescribes the date for convening the 60-day regular session of the Legislature. Specifically, the State Constitution provides that, in odd-numbered years, the regular session of the Legislature must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. The State Constitution, however, permits the Legislature to fix by law the date for convening the regular session in each even-numbered year.¹

Presently, the Legislature has not fixed a specific date in law for convening in each even-numbered year; as such, the regular legislative session for all years convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.²

Effect of the Bill

The bill requires the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature to convene on January 12, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

¹ Subsection 3(b), Art. III, Fla. Const.

² Traditionally, the Legislature fixes an early start date for the regular session in apportionment (redistricting) years. For example, in 2012, the regular legislative session started on January 10, 2012. *See* chapter 2010-91, L.O.F.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

By moving the start of the regular legislative session in 2016, the Legislature would enact the state budget approximately six weeks earlier in that year. As a result, state agencies would have additional time prior to the start of the fiscal year to implement or react to any budgetary changes.