

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7103

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:

SPONSOR(S): Government Operations
Appropriations; Representative
Nuñez; Representative Artiles

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COMPANION BILLS: SB 7076

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 7103 passed the House on March 8, 2016, as SB 7076. The bill establishes in law the convening date for the 2018 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. For even-numbered years, the State Constitution permits the Legislature to fix by law the date for convening the regular legislative session. If no date is fixed by law, the regular session in even-numbered years must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

The Legislature has not permanently fixed a specific date in law for even-numbered years. As such, the regular legislative session for even-numbered years typically convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. However, in 2014, the Legislature enacted ch. 2014-106, Laws of Florida, to require the 2016 regular legislative session to begin on January 12, 2016. For subsequent even-numbered years, the regular legislative session will convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

The bill requires the 2018 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state or local government.

The bill was approved by the Governor on April 9, 2016, ch. 2016-218, 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. For even-numbered years, the State Constitution permits the Legislature to fix by law the date for convening the regular legislative session.¹ If no date is fixed by law, the regular session in even-number years must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

Presently, the Legislature has not permanently fixed a specific date in law for even-numbered years. As such, the regular legislative session for even-numbered years typically convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.² However, in 2014, the Legislature enacted ch. 2014-106, Laws of Florida, to require the 2016 regular legislative session to begin on January 12, 2016. For subsequent even-numbered years, the regular legislative session will convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

Effect of the Bill

The bill requires the 2018 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

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:

¹ Subsection 3(b), Article III, Florida Constitution.

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.

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Moving the start date of the regular legislative session in 2018 would result in the Legislature enacting the state budget approximately eight weeks earlier than current practice. This change would provide state agencies with additional time to the start of the fiscal year to implement or react to any budgetary changes. Additionally, the bill will require the submission of the Governor's recommended budget several weeks earlier than usual.