

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #:	HB 7045	FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:		
SUBJECT/SHORT TITLE	The Legislature/Date for Convening 2020 Regular Session	110	Y's 4	N's
SPONSOR(S):	Rules & Policy Committee and Nuñez	GOVERNOR'S ACTION:	Approved	
COMPANION BILLS:				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 7045 passed the House on January 31, 2018, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 8, 2018. The State Constitution provides that the regular session of the Legislature must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years. 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, the Legislature enacted laws to require the 2012, 2016, and 2018 regular legislative sessions to begin in January. 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 2020 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

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

The bill was approved by the Governor on March 23, 2018, ch 2018-114, L.O.F., and becomes effective on May 10, 2018.

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 the regular session of the Legislature must begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years. 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-numbered 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. Also, in 2016, the Legislature enacted ch. 2016-218, Laws of Florida, to require the 2018 regular legislative session to begin on January 9, 2018. 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 2020 regular session of the Legislature to convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

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 2020 would result in the Legislature enacting the state budget approximately six weeks earlier than current practice. This change would provide state agencies with additional time prior to the start of the fiscal year to implement or react to any budgetary changes.