

SB 2284 — Date for convening 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature

by Senator Negron

This bill provides that the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature will convene on January 10, in accordance with Article III, Section 3(b) of the State Constitution and in lieu of the date otherwise prescribed (March 6).

The Legislature will apportion senatorial and representative districts during the 2012 Regular Session (*see* s. 16, Art. III, State Constitution). Within 15 days after passage of a joint resolution of apportionment, the Attorney General will petition the Florida Supreme Court for a declaratory judgment determining the validity of the apportionment. Within 30 days after filing of the petition, the Supreme Court will enter its judgment. Before the apportionment takes effect, federal approval pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act also is required. This may take an additional 60 calendar days or more (*see* 28 C.F.R. s. 51.9; *see also* 28 C.F.R. s. 51.37).

The dates for qualifying for federal or state office in 2012 will be June 18-22 (*see* s. 99.061(1) and (9), F.S.). Redistricting plans must be enacted, approved by the Florida Supreme Court, and precleared by federal authorities before candidates qualify for office.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 110-0