

1 Resolution of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
2 A resolution proposing an amendment to Section 3 of
3 Article III of the State Constitution to change the
4 commencement dates of regular sessions of the Legislature
5 to the second Tuesday in January from commencement dates
6 in March and to permit the Legislature to establish
7 alternative commencement dates by law.
8

9 Be It Resolved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission:
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11 That the following amendment to Section 3 of Article III
12 and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State
13 Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors
14 of this state for approval or rejection at the next general
15 election or at an earlier special election specifically
16 authorized by law for that purpose:

17 ARTICLE III

18 LEGISLATURE

19 SECTION 3. Sessions of the legislature.-

20 (a) ORGANIZATION SESSIONS. On the fourteenth day
21 following each general election the legislature shall convene
22 for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of
23 officers.

24 (b) REGULAR SESSIONS. A regular session of the
25 legislature shall convene annually on the second ~~first~~ Tuesday
26 in January ~~after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered~~
27 ~~year, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March,~~
28 ~~or such other date as may be fixed by law, of each even-numbered~~
29 ~~year.~~ The legislature may fix an alternative date by law

30 approved by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house.
31 Such law may fix only the date of the next annual regular
32 session.

33 (c) SPECIAL SESSIONS.

34 (1) The governor, by proclamation stating the purpose, may
35 convene the legislature in special session during which only
36 such legislative business may be transacted as is within the
37 purview of the proclamation, or of a communication from the
38 governor, or is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the
39 membership of each house.

40 (2) A special session of the legislature may be convened
41 as provided by law.

42 (d) LENGTH OF SESSIONS. A regular session of the
43 legislature shall not exceed sixty consecutive days, and a
44 special session shall not exceed twenty consecutive days, unless
45 extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of each house.
46 During such an extension no new business may be taken up in
47 either house without the consent of two-thirds of its
48 membership.

49 (e) ADJOURNMENT. Neither house shall adjourn for more
50 than seventy-two consecutive hours except pursuant to concurrent
51 resolution.

52 (f) ADJOURNMENT BY GOVERNOR. If, during any regular or
53 special session, the two houses cannot agree upon a time for
54 adjournment, the governor may adjourn the session sine die or to
55 any date within the period authorized for such session; provided
56 that, at least twenty-four hours before adjourning the session,
57 and while neither house is in recess, each house shall be given
58 formal written notice of the governor's intention to do so, and

59 agreement reached within that period by both houses on a time
60 for adjournment shall prevail.

61 ARTICLE XII

62 SCHEDULE

63 The amendment to Section 3 of Article III relating to the
64 date on which annual regular sessions of the legislature must
65 convene, and this section, shall take effect January 1, 2009.
66 The amendment shall first apply to the date on which the 2010
67 regular session of the legislature convenes.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be
69 placed on the ballot:

70 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

71 ARTICLE III, SECTION 3

72 ARTICLE XII

73 JANUARY COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE
74 LEGISLATURE.--This proposed amendment to the State Constitution
75 will change the commencement date of regular sessions of the
76 Legislature to the second Tuesday in January from commencement
77 dates in early March. The amendment also permits the
78 Legislature, through a supermajority vote, to establish an
79 alternative commencement date by law for the subsequent regular
80 session.