

## SPECIAL SESSIONS

### Summary Points:

1. The Governor can convene a special session by proclamation. The Legislature may only consider business “for which they were specially convened.”
  
2. The Legislature can convene a special session by a petition signed by two-thirds of the elected members of each House. The petition “must specify the business to be transacted” during the special session. The Legislature may only consider business specified in the petition. Unless otherwise provided in the petition, a special session convened by the Legislature “takes precedence over a special session convened by the Governor.”
  
3. A special session is limited to 20 consecutive calendar days, unless the special session is called for reasons of proceedings for impeachment, removal or expulsion.
  
4. Other than the restriction on the business to be considered, the legislative process is otherwise unchanged from a regular session.
  
5. Legislators are paid a salary during a special session.
  
6. The blackout period for campaign contributions applies.

### Relevant Constitutional Provisions:

**Art. 4, Sec. 2. Biennial sessions of Legislature: Commencement; limitation on duration; void actions; submission of proposed executive budget.**

1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall commence on the 1st Monday of February following the election of members of the Assembly, **unless the Governor of the State or the members of the Legislature shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation or petition.**

2. The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later than midnight Pacific time at the end of the 120th consecutive calendar day of that session, inclusive of the day on which that session commences. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific time at the end of the 120th consecutive calendar day of that session is void, **unless the legislative action is conducted during a special session.**

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**Art. 4, Sec. 2A. Special sessions of Legislature, convened by the Legislature.**

1. The Legislature may be convened, on extraordinary occasions, upon a petition signed by two-thirds of the members elected to each House of the Legislature. A petition must specify the business to be transacted during the special session, indicate a date on or before which the Legislature is to convene and be transmitted to the Secretary of State. Upon receipt of one or more substantially similar petitions signed, in the aggregate, by the required number of members, calling for a special session, the Secretary of State shall notify all members of the Legislature and the Governor that a special session will be convened pursuant to this section.

2. At a special session convened pursuant to this section, the Legislature shall not introduce, consider or pass any bills except those related to the business specified in the petition and those necessary to provide for the expenses of the session.

3. A special session convened pursuant to this section takes precedence over a special session convened by the Governor pursuant to Section 9 of Article 5 of this Constitution, unless otherwise provided in the petition convening the special session pursuant to this section.

4. The Legislature may provide by law for the procedure for convening a special session pursuant to this section.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Legislature shall adjourn sine die a special session convened pursuant to this section not later than midnight Pacific time at the end of the 20th consecutive calendar day of that session, inclusive of the day on which that session commences. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific time at the end of the 20th consecutive calendar day of that session is void. This subsection does not apply to a special session that is convened to conduct proceedings for:

(a) Impeachment or removal from office of the Governor and other state and judicial officers pursuant to Article 7 of this Constitution; or

(b) Expulsion from office of a member of the Legislature pursuant to Section 6 of Article 4 of this Constitution.

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**Art 4, Sec. 33. Compensation of members of Legislature; payment for postage, stationery and other expenses; additional allowances for officers.** The members of the Legislature shall receive for their services a compensation to be fixed by law and paid out of the public treasury, for not to exceed 60 days during any regular session of the Legislature and **not to exceed 20 days during any special session**; but no increase of such compensation shall take effect during the term for which the members of either house shall have been elected; Provided, that an appropriation may be made for the payment of such actual expenses as members of the Legislature may incur for postage, express charges, newspapers and stationery not exceeding the sum of Sixty dollars for any general or special session to each member; and Furthermore Provided, that the Speaker of the Assembly, and Lieutenant Governor, as President of the Senate, shall each, during the time of their actual attendance as such presiding officers receive an additional allowance of two dollars per diem.

**Art. 5, Sec. 9. Special sessions of Legislature: Authority of Governor; limitations on business and duration; void actions.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in Section 2A of Article 4 of this Constitution, the Governor may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Legislature by Proclamation and shall state to both houses, when organized, the business for which they have been specially convened.

2. At a special session convened pursuant to this section, the Legislature shall not introduce, consider or pass any bills except those related to the business for which the Legislature has been specially convened and those necessary to provide for the expenses of the session.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Legislature shall adjourn sine die a special session convened pursuant to this section not later than midnight Pacific time at the end of the 20th consecutive calendar day of that session, inclusive of the day on which that session commences. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific time at the end of the 20th consecutive calendar day of that session is void. This subsection does not apply to a special session that is convened to conduct proceedings for:

(a) Impeachment or removal from office of the Governor and other state and judicial officers pursuant to Article 7 of this Constitution; or

(b) Expulsion from office of a member of the Legislature pursuant to Section 6 of Article 4 of this Constitution.

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