

DETAIL LISTING
FROM FIRST TO LAST STEP

TODAY'S DATE: Feb. 13, 19 1
TIME : 8:06 am
LEG. DAY IS: 116
PAGE : 1 OF 1

N E L I S

1995

SJR 3 By Raggio LEGISLATURE

Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

Fiscal Note: Effect on Local Government: No. Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

01/23 6 Read first time. Referred to Committee on Govt Affairs, To printer.

01/24 7 From printer. To committee.

01/24 7 Dates discussed in Committee: 4/12 (DP)

04/13 54 From committee: Do pass.

04/17 55 Read second time. To engrossment.

04/17 55 Engrossed.

04/19✓ 57 Read third time. Passed. Title approved. (17 Yeas, 2 Nays, 0 Absent, 1 Excused, 1 Not Voting.) To Assembly.

04/20 58 In Assembly.

04/20 58 Read first time. Referred to Committee on Elections & Proced. To committee.

04/20 58 Dates discussed in committee: 5/9, 5/16, 6/1 (DP)

06/02 89 From committee: Do pass.

06/05 90 Read second time.

06/06 91 Taken from General File. Placed on General File for next legislative day.

06/07✓ 92 Read third time. Passed. Title approved. (39 Yeas, 3 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Excused, 0 Not Voting.) To Senate.

06/09 94 In Senate.

06/09 94 To enrollment.

06/12 96 Enrolled and delivered to Secretary of State.

06/12 96 File No. 104.

(Return to 1997 Session)

(* = instrument from prior session)



BILL SUMMARY

68th REGULAR SESSION
OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE

PREPARED BY
RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
Nonpartisan Staff of the Nevada State Legislature

S.J.R. 3 (File No. 104)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 proposes to amend the *Nevada Constitution* to change the first day of a regular biennial legislative session from the third Monday in January to the first Monday in February and to limit the length of each such session to no more than 120 calendar days. In addition, the measure requires the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature not later than 14 days before the start of each regular session.

If approved in identical form by the 1997 Session, this proposal will be submitted to the voters for their approval or disapproval at the General Election of 1998.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—SENATORS RAGGIO, O'CONNELL, AUGUSTINE, JACOBSEN, JAMES, LOWDEN, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, O'DONNELL, PORTER, REGAN, TOWNSEND AND WASHINGTON

JANUARY 23, 1995

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

EXPLANATION—Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to commence each regular session of the legislature in February, to limit the length of each regular session and to require the governor to submit a proposed executive budget before the commencement of each regular session.

- 1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
2 JOINTLY, That section 2 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada
3 be amended to read as follows:
4 Sec. 2. 1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall
5 commence on the [3rd] 1st Monday of [January next ensuing] *February*
6 *following* the election of members of the Assembly, unless the Governor of
7 the State shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation.
8 2. *The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later*
9 *than midnight Pacific standard time 120 calendar days following its com-*
10 *mencement. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard time*
11 *on the 120th calendar day is void, unless the legislative action is conducted*
12 *during a special session convened by the Governor.*
13 3. *The Governor shall submit the proposed executive budget to the Legis-*
14 *lature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each*
15 *regular session.*
16 And be it further
17 RESOLVED, That section 12 of article 17 of the constitution of the State of
18 Nevada be amended to read as follows:
19 Sec: 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on the
20 second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and the
21 second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of
22 January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session
23 of the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall com-
24 mence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty

1 Seven; and the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter
2 biennially . [, commencing on the first Monday of January.]

Ⓢ

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Sixty-eighth Session
April 12, 1995**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chairman Ann O'Connell, at 2:15 p.m., on Wednesday, April 12, 1995, in Room 227 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Ann O'Connell, Chairman
Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Vice Chairman
Senator Jon C. Porter
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator William R. O'Donnell
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Raymond C. Shaffer

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani, Assembly District No. 9
Assemblywoman Dianne Steel, Assembly District No. 16

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

DeLynn Gillentine, Committee Secretary
Dana Bennett, Senior Research Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathryn A. McClain, Lobbyist, Legislative Analyst, Clark County
Kenneth A. West, Chief Deputy Controller, Office of the State Controller
Lucille K. Lusk, Lobbyist, Nevada Concerned Citizens
Ellen R. Nelson, Concerned Citizen
Janine Hansen, Lobbyist, Nevada Eagle Forum
Juanita Cox, Lobbyist, People to Protect America

election were held. Ms. Cox suggested looking to other states for the statistics.

Senator Titus stated she thinks that 'none of the above' counts and sends a message now. Ms. Cox agreed with Senator Titus's statement. Senator Porter said:

. . . There are very few checks and balances for campaigns. We have arguments for freedom of the press, freedom of expression, and there [are] very few ways to have a checks and balance in place. I think this does send a message that the voter is sick and tired of what is happening. What makes it even worse is this type of campaign that we are referring to . . . is a reflection of all the public servants in the state of Nevada. I think we should all look what is happening. . . I think it should remain, whether it should have some definite results . . . is another issue. . .

Senator Shaffer stated he also thinks 'none' sends a message.

Senator O'Connell closed the hearing on S.B. 325 and opened the hearing on Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 3.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3: Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

Senator Raggio testified in favor of S.J.R. 3. Senator Raggio discussed the history and meaning of the bill. Senator Raggio said sessions are getting longer and it is not always the preparation of the budget that has made sessions so long. Senator Raggio stated if this resolution were adopted, it would preserve the biannual session. It would require that the session would begin later and would adjourn not later than 120 calendar days after its commencement. It would require that the Governor submit the budget at least 14 days before the commencement date of each session. It would accommodate an earlier date on fiscal aspects of the Legislature; and it would allow the Legislature to develop prior to the session and accommodate the formation of a Legislative budget.

Senate Committee on Government Affairs

April 12, 1995

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Senator Shaffer suggested a June 15, to September 15, date due to the weather. Senator Raggio said he considered those dates, but the Legislature would be completely out of step with all other legislative bodies in the country.

Senator Titus said:

Just recently, I heard the majority leader speak twice on a matter that seems to be absolutely contradictory to this. You spoke on the floor against having a 2-week recess with a schedule for meeting in Las Vegas, maybe on Fridays, because you said we need flexibility in scheduling. Then you spoke yesterday in the legislative functions committee against Larry Spitler's bill which would require a 3-day waiting period before we voted on the appropriations bill, again because the legislature needs flexibility in scheduling. Now we have a bill that is going to [require] a set 120 days [to complete a session]. It seems this is the ultimate in lack of flexibility. You are ignoring the fact that we only meet every other year. [Of the] six other states that do [meet every other year], two of them are almost constantly in special session. It is ignoring the growth rate of the state and . . . ignoring what important issues might come up. I say if we could do it in 120 days, why aren't we doing it in 120 days now? I don't think it is because we want to stay up here in Carson City. I don't think it is because we don't want to go home to our families or our jobs . . . I think it is because it takes a certain amount of time to do business and to cut it off at 120 days would be an artificial, arbitrary thing that wouldn't be appropriate.

Senator Raggio responded, "The good senator is misconstruing my positions because [of] the very reasons I advocated against [Larry Spitler's bill] and in support of doing away with the 2-week adjournment is because that turned out to be an automatic . . . extension of the legislative term . . . The reason we can't get out of here is because we don't have a definite date that we must adjourn. . . "

Senator O'Donnell stated, "I believe government is like a cancer, it keeps growing and growing . . . and with every new assemblyman and every new senator that gets elected . . . there has to be a new bill. . . As long as we are up here we are just going to keep passing bills that keep making government bigger and the rights of the citizens smaller. I am in favor of limiting the session as soon and as quickly

as possible. . . I am in favor of the biannual sessions and I also am in favor of limiting them as much as possible."

Senator Raggio discussed and presented Exhibit E.

Senator O'Connell asked, "It is pretty obvious to those of us that do not sit on finance that it is usually the budget that drives the length of the session. I wonder how the finance committee [would] perceive doing something in a shorter period of time. What changes would have to be made to accomplish that?"

Senator Raggio replied, ". . . I reiterate that in most cases it is not the completion of the budget that is keeping this legislature here . . . Right now we are closing budgets. We have been through all of the budgets. We are meeting jointly to close budgets with the other house. We are awaiting the economic forum projections on May 1. Subject only to the fact that the administration is submitting new proposals and revised budgets, we are in a position to make final decisions. We could have those decisions made within a reasonable time after May 1. In my experience, it . . . has been very infrequently that the budget is the thing that is keeping us here. It is dealing with everybody trying to get a bill draft request out, everybody wanting their bills heard . . . certainly there is a lot of introduction of frivolous or unimportant legislation . . . "

Senator O'Connell questioned, "Then do you think that this session we will have the budget prior to the very end of the session?"

Senator Raggio responded, "Without knowing when the end of the session is . . . I can't tell you. I would hope . . . that we will get out of here by June 10. . . "

Senator Titus asked, "Do we have the statistics for the number of days that the session has lasted over the last decade or so?"

Senator Raggio replied, ". . . I know that the last 3 sessions have all gone [to] either the last day of June or the first or second day of July."

Senator Titus said she wanted to know how many days the session has been averaging. Senator O'Connell said, "168 days . . . I think is the longest session." Senator Titus and Senator O'Connell discussed the last three sessions and how many days they lasted.

Ms. Lusk testified in favor of S.J.R. 3. Ms. Lusk described her experiences with citizens about the legislative session. Ms. Lusk thinks the February start date as proposed by Senator Raggio would be beneficial because it would allow everyone to rest after the election. Ms. Lusk said if there was a limit on time, people would prioritize bills or legislation.

Senator Porter commented, "I have always wanted to believe in deadlines . . . I have always been a believer that April 15 should be election day, because I think a lot of things would happen differently if we voted the same day that we pay our taxes. I would agree we need a deadline, I think it will help us set priorities and be more efficient."

Eric S. Cooper, Lobbyist, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of S.J.R. 3. Mr. Cooper stated they would like a clarification on what Senator Raggio means when he says 120 days. Does he mean 120 consecutive calendar days without any holidays or anything intervening? Senator Raggio confirmed that 120 days means 120 consecutive calendar days.

Putnam Mathur, Lobbyist, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of S.J.R. 3. Ms. Mathur said she thinks that if there is a deadline, the legislature would be more productive. Ms. Mathur said the freshmen would probably benefit from the extra time before the session starts to learn the procedures.

Ms. Hansen testified in favor of S.J.R. 3. Ms. Hansen reiterated prior testimony and stated it is easier for citizens to participate in the legislative session if there is a definite time frame. Ms. Hansen said she encourages the definite time frame for the session and believes it will give greater credibility to the elected officials. Ms. Hansen thinks the number of bills that are introduced need to be limited.

Ms. Cox stated her support for S.J.R. 3. Ms. Cox said less time is less law and less government.

Senator Titus stated:

This bill . . . limits the number of days. It doesn't do anything to the number of bill draft requests that would be submitted. You still have the same constituency as before, same groups active, same kind of problems facing the state, how do you know that this wouldn't just cram everything into 120 days? There would be less notice, less

opportunity for the public to be involved, less ability to be informed on what the issues are, and things would be rammed through . . . during that whole session more then they are now at the very end. What is the safeguard against that happening and making the situation less accessible as opposed to better?

Ms. Cox said she thinks the citizens elect responsible people and the atmosphere would promote correctness. Ms. Cox believes the elected officials will do what is right and only pass excellent laws.

Senator Porter stated, "In my short tenure here, the one thing I can assure you is it wouldn't happen in these few months if it wasn't for the staff that we have. . . I want to take this opportunity to thank those folks behind the scenes. It really wouldn't happen in 4 months, in 3 months or in 6 months without the staff and I appreciate all of the help I have gotten from day one."

Ms. Nelson testified in opposition to S.J.R. 3. Ms. Nelson stated she is in favor of limited annual sessions.

Senator O'Connell closed the hearing on S.J.R. 3 and opened the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 18.

ASSEMBLY BILL 18: Expands area around polling place where electioneering or solicitation of votes is prohibited. (BDR 24-1001)

Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani, Assembly District No. 9, testified, "This is a very simple piece of legislation and I think timely. I introduced it immediately after the primary election . . . I received quite a few calls from senior citizens in my district from [the] Las Vegas High School polling area who had been harassed at the polls. . . I contacted [the Legislative Counsel Bureau] and had them research . . . [a] barrier for the polling area. . . Assembly Bill 18 . . . allows you to establish a reasonable area to protect the integrity of the polling area. . . It defines that within 100 feet of the entrance to the building or other structure where the polling is located that electioneering is prohibited. . . "

Senator Raggio stated he supports the concept, but has questions in regard to the definition of electioneering within the bill, specifically the item "wearing related insignia." Senator Raggio asked if someone walked within 100 feet wearing a

Senator O'Connell asked the committee if they were interested in addressing some of the bills the committee heard earlier today. Senator Raggio said he would like to work on S.J.R. 3.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO DO PASS S.J.R. 3.

SENATOR TOWNSEND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (SENATOR TITUS VOTED NO).

Senator O'Connell asked if the committee would like to act on S.B. 325, the committee declined. Senator O'Connell asked if the committee would like to act on A.B. 18. Senator Raggio said he would like to hold on A.B. 18. Senator Townsend concurred with Senator Raggio.

Senator O'Connell asked Joann Long, Secretary Deputy for Elections, to testify in regard to A.B. 18. Senator O'Connell asked:

When we were talking about Assemblywoman Chris Giunchigliani's bill and we were talking about the information that would be included so that we knew the candidates would know that their insignias and buttons. . . should not be worn when they go into vote. Would you clarify your nod for us?

Ms. Long responded, "One of the things that we had talked about . . . is that it be included in the sample ballots. . . When a candidate comes in to file . . . we also . . . explain to them that information. . ."

Senator O'Donnell stated, "The bill does penalize somebody with a gross misdemeanor, which is 6 months to a year in jail, for wearing a badge or button inadvertently into a polling place. . ."

Senator O'Connell said, "I think the major thing we need to do is specify a warning of some kind before there is a citation."

Senator O'Connell opened the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 273.

Limiting the session

■ Proposal would bring state lawmakers home after 120 days.

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs now has Senate Joint Resolution 3 in its lap, which would amend the state constitution to limit each legislative session to 120 days.

In addition, the proposal would move back the start of each biennial session, from the current third Monday in January to the first Monday in February, and require the governor to submit his proposed spending plan before the Legislature opens.

All this makes good sense.

Currently, the Legislature is not bound by constitution or statute to ever conclude its business. Recent sessions have

dragged on into late June or early July, the end unleashing a frantic flurry of dubious legislation rushed forward with the hope of wrapping up matters in time to ensure the integrity of lawmakers' vacation plans.

Of course setting a specific deadline for sine die won't curtail the end-of-session machinations. But it will force lawmakers to set priorities, discouraging introduction of frivolous legislation. Lawmakers operating under a hard-and-fast deadline will become more focused and less prone to mischief.

Because SJR3 would amend the Nevada Constitution, the Legislature must approve it in consecutive sessions before submitting it to state voters for final judgment. We're confident the electorate would embrace the wisdom behind this proposal. It's time for lawmakers to take the first step.

The views expressed above are those of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. All other opinions expressed on these pages are those of the artist or author indicated.



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On Jan. 17, 1970
a story headlined "Gray wolves returned to Yellowstone Park."

The last sentence states that the animals were part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to return the gray wolf to the northern Rockies states where the predator was wiped out by hunters some 60 years ago. It seems to me that the person who is that is either anti-hunter, or too busy to know why the hunters wiped out the wolf, or probably both.

The fact is the hunters were hired by the government to eradicate the wolf along with coyotes and cougars. They were called government hunters and trappers, and they killed predators any way they could, including with poison. Hunters who weren't professionals were paid a bounty on

Divorced

To the editor:

This is in response to Armin A. Brott's "Punishing deadbeat dad" article on Jan. 8.

The reality is, Mr. Brott, that many divorce cases where children are involved, the standard of living goes up for the man, while for the mother it goes down.

Let's assume for a moment that the father is not paying his court-ordered child support payments.

He often rents only a one-bedroom apartment, but the mother is forced to pay rent on a two- or three-bedroom house.

His food bill is quite low, while the mom is feeding two or three children besides herself.

Utility costs will be higher for her, as well as laundering costs for the children's clothes.

For mom, outside costly entertainment fun is usually out of the question. But dad has plenty of time for entertainment because he doesn't have to worry about the children.

Now, let's talk about day care. The mom works, which averages \$100 per week for two children. In addition, she has school lunches, diaper supplies, mandatory P.E. uniforms and field trips.

If she's unfortunate enough

Commissioners brainstorm during retreat

EXHIBIT E 1163

Remarks by Senator James.

Amendment adopted.

Bill ordered reprinted, re-engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Senators Raggio, Titus, Neal, Augustine and James.

Senator Coffin requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 proposes an amendment to the State Constitution which would do several things. First of all, it would change the commencement date of the legislative session from the third Monday in January to the first Monday in February. The purpose for that is to extend the time between elections, perhaps having a new Governor, and the date for the convening of the Legislature. The second thing it would do would be to establish a finite date for adjournment at 120 days after the Legislature convenes. I might indicate to you that some 30 states do this. These states have fixed dates beyond which their sessions cannot exist. This measure would require that the Legislature adjourn not later than 120 calendar days following the commencement. The incentive there is that any measure passed after that date is null and void. The third thing the proposal does is to require that the Governor submit the proposed budget to the Legislature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of the session. That has been sought over the years and I believe most people support that item. We find ourselves in the legislative session sometimes a week or more before we receive the budget. This would allow all members of the Legislature to have access to the executive budget two weeks ahead of the commencement of the session. This same resolution was passed by this house last session and was bottled up in the Assembly. If passed this session, it will have to be passed at the next session and then go to a vote of the people. I think it is a response to the concerns many have about the length of our sessions. In the over 30 states where they have fixed dates for adjournment, they have found that when you are required to get the work done within a fixed period of time the Legislature does so. We can do this now by rule, but then we can always waive the rule. This will implant that in the Constitution of the State of Nevada so it will be done. This is also an alternative the voters may have to those who propose annual sessions. I would urge your support. As I said before, this measure will have to pass two sessions and then be placed on the ballot.

SENATOR TITUS:

I rise in opposition to this resolution, but before explaining why, let me make two points very clear. First, I am acting against my own self-interest. If the session were to last only 120 days, I could go home sooner—back to my husband, my home, my family, my pets, my job and my students. I could get back on the payroll at UNLV and I would not lose an additional two months of salary. However, I was elected to represent the people of District 7. So I must put aside my own interests and do what is in the best interest of the people of Nevada.

Second, I have no desire to prolong the session. I agree that the government which governs least, governs best. I have consistently supported measures which would streamline and shorten the process, such as limiting the number of bill drafts a legislator or agency can request and requiring the governor to submit his budget earlier. I have suggested having fewer memorializing resolutions and I have cautioned against eliminating floor sessions for fear that doing so will lengthen the session. I have also challenged the Majority Leader to prove his claim that we can complete our legislative business in 120 days by doing so this session and adjourning on May 15th. Having said all that, however, I am opposed to SCR 3 and I feel that constitutionally-limiting the Legislature to 120 days every two years is unwise.

This resolution ignores the tremendous growth rate of the state with its corresponding increase in problems and demands. It conveniently overlooks the fact that other states with limited sessions meet every year, not every two years; and its proponents do not explain that states with limited sessions must meet frequently in special sessions which are always more expensive than regular sessions and thus cost taxpayers more money.

Nor have I heard mentioned the result of a study conducted by *Expansion Management Magazine*, a conservative, business-oriented publication which evaluated the 50 state legislatures in this country. Their measurements included the historical taxation approach and the management style of the legislative bodies. Nevada scored number three of 50; in other words, third best in the entire country for its efficient and economical, businesslike approach to the task of governing. And interestingly enough, the factor which caused us to rank third instead of first was not the length of our session but rather lack of term limits for legislators.

While important, these are minor concerns, however, compared to what's really going on here. Let me explain. In recent days I have observed a trend in the Senate which I think is very dangerous. SCR 3 does not stand alone; instead it is one step in a move toward decreasing access to and accountability of the Legislature.

On April 7, we had extensive debate on the floor of this body on ACR 8 which eliminated the two-week recess and corresponding meetings in Las Vegas. The sponsor of the resolution before us today argued first that the southern recess lengthened the session. Figures, however, refute this. We all know that the longest session in history occurred in 1989 prior to the enactment of the recess provision.

It was further argued that no alternative to the two-week recess should be established because committee chairmen need to maintain as much, and I quote, "control" as possible.

These same arguments were raised again on April 11 in the Legislative Functions Committee when we heard Assemblyman Spittler's measure, ACR 7, which would require that the appropriations bill be available for three days prior to a vote being taken, thereby allowing increased public knowledge about how the Legislature intends to spend tax dollars. Once again the Majority Leader argued against binding the Legislature to any set schedule because it takes power and control away from leadership.

Now we have SJR 3, which would limit the Legislature to 120 days every two years. This is just one more component of a movement that will deny access to the citizens of our state. By opposing meetings in the south, by opposing a three-day waiting period, and by supporting a 120-day limitation on the session, some members of this body are systematically decreasing opportunity for public input in the political process, cutting off access to policymakers, and undermining citizens' ability to hold politicians accountable. This move to isolate and insulate government flies in the face of current public demand—more open government. The levels of mistrust and political cynicism are higher than they've ever been in U.S. history. Voters are throwing out incumbents left and right; they are clamoring for term limits; and they are demanding government reforms at every level.

We need to encourage—not stifle—greater involvement in the process, even if it threatens the old power elite who enjoy the status quo. Limiting the session to 120 days every other year will do just the opposite. More deals will be made prior to the session's beginning, in backrooms and boardrooms, outside the scrutiny of the press and public. Less time will be available for careful deliberation of bills; the public will be less able to become informed on the issues; and there will be decreased opportunity for citizens to participate. A vote for SJR 3 is not a vote to shorten the session. It is a move to make the Nevada Legislature a more elite body, even further removed from the citizens of this state.

SENATOR NEAL:

Thank you, Mr. President, through you to the members of the Senate. Our Majority Leader never ceases to amaze me with some of the things he does. When we were talking about the birthday of Martin Luther King, he stepped forward and assisted us in passing that. Now the Majority Leader has brought forth a measure which would eliminate the conflict of the Legislature meeting on Martin Luther King's holiday. So, I have to be supportive of that because time and time again since we passed that bill, we've been

meeting while all of the state officers have been on vacation. In spite of the criticism one may have of this particular measure, I still see some good in it. Therefore, I will be voting for it. Thank you.

SENATOR AUGUSTINE:

Thank you, Mr. President. As you can see, I am a co-sponsor of this resolution. But, I think Mark Twain said it best when he said "no one is safe when the legislature is in session."

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Let me say also that my colleague who entered this body at the same time I did never ceases to amaze me. I'm never prepared for what he is going to say. I have to tell you that I did not recognize that fact, but I do think it is worthy that we ought to be able to honor the holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday which we created.

I would say, through you Mr. President to the distinguished Minority Leader, that I was listening to her and all the condemnation of this measure. I was wondering which resolution she was reading. I don't see anything in this resolution about back room deals or anything of that nature. I think this is a direct response to the concerns and criticisms of the populace of this state, as well as editorial comments, who have long been chagrined that we are meeting too long. This is an attempt to meet those concerns. Let me assure the distinguished Minority Leader that all of those spooks she sees in this resolution are not intended. The date to adjourn certainly does not create a situation where there is going to be all the fear and concerns the Minority Leader reads into this measure. I think the taxpayers and constituents we represent are a lot more concerned about the continuing costs of the session for which they have to pay. The cost of a session, on a daily basis, is extremely high. Today, we passed a measure out of the Finance Committee to add \$3.6 million to the cost of this session. I would think the distinguished Minority Leader and those she represents would be concerned as well about the extreme cost they have to pay out of their own pockets.

Perhaps I should have asked the Minority Leader to speak less on the resolution we had today, but I think there are some things we do out of courtesy and I do not think they deserve reproach from any member of this body. We are all going to have people we are concerned about and think should be memorialized. Each of us is going to pass through the open gate at the end of the road someday and we will pass through that gate alone. I think we should take pause once in awhile to recognize some of those things. If memorials bother some individuals, then don't speak on them or abstain. Let's vote on this resolution and give the public the opportunity to express themselves.

SENATOR JAMES:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to add something which I do not think has been emphasized. That is that this is a proposed constitutional amendment. I suppose if there are all these devils hiding between the lines in this resolution which are not apparent, when the voters look at this they will have a chance to sort all this out. They can see if this is an effort to try to close government or an effort to simply shorten the length of sessions, get us out of here sooner and make us more fiscally responsible and time responsible to our constituents. We vote on it twice then it goes to the people for a vote. That is the only way in which you can have a constitutional amendment in the State of Nevada. I suppose a "no" vote on this measure today is a vote not to allow the people of the state to vote as to whether there should be a 120-day limit on sessions. I would ask the Senators to keep that in mind.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 3:

YEAS—17.

NAYS—Coffin, Titus—2.

Absent—Rhoads.

Not voting—Adler.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Senator Lowden.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 17:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

Absent—Rhoads.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18.

Resolution read third time.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 18:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—None.

Absent—Rhoads.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Raggio moved that Assembly Bills Nos. 31, 32, 110, 125, 174, 179, 188, 262 be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Remarks by Senator Raggio.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

There being no objections, the President and Secretary signed Senate Bills Nos. 46, 367; Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21, Senate Joint Resolution No. 4; Assembly Bills Nos. 11, 26, 63, 272, 298, 325, 337; Assembly Joint Resolutions Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Augustine, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Eva Kallick and Janice Brooks.

On request of Senator Coffin, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Tharon Purcell.

On request of Senator Jacobsen, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Adrienne Alder, Brett Alder, Bruce Alder, Nicole A. MacDonald and the following members of the Lake Tahoe-Nevada Republican Women: Jean Hurford, Laura Sinclair, Elizabeth Beelik,

**MINUTES OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**Sixty-eighth Session
May 9, 1995**

The Committee on Elections and Procedures was called to order at 3:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 9, 1995, Chairman Giunchigliani presiding in Room 331 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jack D. Close, Chairman
Mrs. Chris Giunchigliani, Chairman
Mrs. Joan A. Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dennis L. Allard
Mr. Joseph E. Dini, Jr.
Mrs. Jan Evans
Mr. Thomas A. Fetic
Mrs. Vivian L. Freeman
Mr. David E. Humke
Mrs. Jan Monaghan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Richard Perkins, Vice Chairman
Mr. Bob Price

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator John B. Regan
Senator William J. Raggio
Assemblywoman Dianne Steel

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Erickson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alec Oltman

Assembly Committee on Elections and Procedures
May 9, 1995
Page 2

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 30 - Urges Congress to give consideration to readiness of republic of China on Taiwan for broader participation in international community.

Senator Jack Regan reflected on his first visit to Taiwan in 1978 and had the displeasure of being in that country the day President Carter broke the treaty. It almost broke the hearts of the Taiwanese to realize a major trading partner had ignored them and went to such an extent. He emphasized southeast Asia was a major trading partner with the United States and because of our import laws, the Taiwanese were becoming importers. As a point of interest he noted the emblems on both the north and south end of our building were gifts from the Taiwanese in 1991. He stressed committee support of A.J.R. 30.

Speaker Dini spoke also in support of A.J.R. 30. His written testimony is submitted as Exhibit C.

Responding to Mr. Close's inquiry as to what the resolution would actually accomplish, Senator Regan noted twenty five other states had passed resolutions in support of Taiwan re-joining the United Nations. We would be one of many and it would be more of a recommendation from us to the United Nations. Both Senator Regan and Speaker Dini gave personal examples of their experience with the Taiwanese; both agreed they were fine people and heartily recommended our support.

A handout entitled "The Republic of China on Taiwan & the U.N.: Questions & Answers" is submitted as Exhibit D.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 - Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session.

Senator Raggio introduced his intern from UNLV, Alec Oltman, and asked him to outline the proposed constitutional amendment.

Mr. Oltman explained S.J.R. 3 would limit the session to 120 days, retaining biennial sessions, with the session beginning the first Monday in February and

requiring the Governor to submit his budget two weeks before the commencement of the session. Currently seven states have biennial sessions and thirty states have a statutory limit on their session length, limiting it to 120 calendar days or less. The average session length over the past three years, according to Mr. Oltman, has been extended to 165 days. Legislators are paid for 60 days; Nevada being the only state limiting the amount of pay legislators earn. Over the last three sessions the average daily expenditure for the Legislature has been \$49,672.00 with an estimated savings of \$2,235,240.00 with a 120 day limit.

Mr. Oltman submitted a handout (Exhibit E) describing length of recent legislative sessions and a comparative schedule of expenditures. Also submitted were editorials from The Daily Sparks Tribune and The Las Vegas Review-Journal in support of S.J.R. 3 (Exhibit F).

Senator Raggio briefly described the reasoning behind S.J.R.3. Some of the concerns constantly expressed by the public included the slow pace in which a session begins, length of session being viewed in most peoples' perception being dictated by the considerations of the budget and reviews of the money committees, concern about taxpayer dollars for the legislative process, etc. He declared all those things weighed upon his decision to sponsor S.J.R. 3 and it was not some immediate reaction to other suggestions such as annual sessions.

Continuing, Senator Raggio stated his position on annual sessions. He noted most legislators he had conversed with around the country envy the fact that we only meet biennially. From a budgetary standpoint it is easier than to budget within the confines of a fiscal year. He added it is important the Governor submit a budget at least two weeks before the session, allowing every legislator, incoming or returning, to get familiar with the executive budget, both in expenditures and revenue. It would also allow money committee members to come into the session at full speed. In addition, if the session did not begin until the first Monday in February, that would allow the incoming Governor additional time to prepare a budget. He concluded by saying the proposed amendment was designed to incorporate a number of suggestions made by legislators over the years.

Committee discussion ensued. A question was posed as to why the date in the resolution was selected. Senator Raggio responded it would be a practical problem not to be meeting generally at the same time when other states are meeting because of lack of communication with legislative organizations which gear themselves to the ordinary time when legislatures meet.

Senator Raggio expressed concern that we could be rubber stamps of an executive

budget. He said we are hoping eventually to create a legislative office so as to prepare a legislative budget as most progressive states do. That would be an appropriate goal.

Chairman Giunchigliani raised a concern in that she "hoped motivation was the substance of what we're doing here rather than worrying about number of days." She targeted S.J.R.3 as "dangerous" as it placed rigid time constraints on lawmakers. Senator Raggio responded by saying, "We are learning from the experience of 30 states that have fixed limits on their legislatures of 120 days. This is not a new idea. And, no matter if we did the best job in the world, we are constantly taken to task, especially by the media, focusing on cost and length of a session."

Exploring solutions to the dilemma, Senator Raggio suggested limiting the amount of those requesting bill drafts. He noted the number of bills and bill draft requests honored was exceptional when compared to ordinary legislative processes in other states. Speaker Dini declared one of our drawbacks is how to maintain an adequate staff to handle a session and still not load ourselves with overhead in between sessions.

Responding to Assemblywoman Evans' inquiry as to how many of the 30 states having limited sessions also had frequent special sessions, Senator Raggio stated those states having the 120 day limitation, either biannually or annually, did not have frequent special sessions.

ASSEMBLY BILL 563 - Revises provisions governing reimbursement of certain expenses of legislators.

Chairman Giunchigliani gave a brief analysis of A.B. 563.

Assemblywoman Dianne Steel, District 16, stated when planning her move from Las Vegas she priced a rental costing approximately \$600 to rent furniture for the entire session; an alternative was to move furniture to Carson City. A professional mover, she learned, would charge \$2200, because if moving intrastate in Nevada they have to charge for at least 7000 pounds. In her case she rented a truck and moved it herself which was less than a professional mover but more than just renting the furniture. She concluded by saying, "So it cost the taxpayer more money, and I just think we should close those money holes as much as we can."

Assemblyman Close stated he had numerous phone calls concerning a misconception where the public felt the bill would involve additional reimbursement

*Senator Kaggis's Hearings
5-9-95 Elections &
Procedures*

Biennial Sessions:(7) AR, KY, MT, NV, ND, OR, TX.

Statutory Limitation Of Session Length to Less Than 120 Days: (30)

AL, AK, AR, CO, FL, GA, HI, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MN, MO, MT, NE, NH, NM,
ND, OK, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV, WY.

Only the Governor Can Call Special Session: (18) AL, AR, CA, ID, IN, KY, MI, MN,
NV, ND, RI, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, WI, WY.

Statutory Limitation Of Session With a Population Greater Than Nevada's : (24)

AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, HI, IN, KY, LA, ME, MD, MN, MO, NE, NH, NM,
OK, OR, RI, SC, TN, VA, WA,

Average Session Length Last Three Years-- 165 days

Average Daily Expenditure Last Three Years-- \$49,672.00/day

Estimated Savings with 120 Day Limit-- \$2,235,240.00

EXHIBIT E

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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

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ROBERT E. ERICKSON, Research Director (702) 687-6825
BRENDA J. ERDOES, Legislative Counsel (702) 687-6830

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 1995
TO: File
FROM: Robert E. Erickson, Research Director
SUBJECT: Length of Recent Legislative Sessions

In response to your request, I have compiled the following information concerning the length of Nevada's regular legislative sessions from 1967 to present.

Legislative Session	Date of Sine Die	Legislative Days*	Calendar Days
1967	April 15	67	90
1969	April 24	71	95
1971	April 26	72	99
1973	April 26	74	102
1975	May 21	83	121
1977	May 9	81	113
1979	May 29	93	134
1981	June 4	101	137
1983	May 22	90	126
1985	June 4	96	135
1987	June 18	109	151
1989	July 1	122	167
1991	June 30	115	161
1993	July 2	111	166

*Based on records of Nevada Assembly.

If I may be of any further assistance, please let me know.

REE/cc rsdiv/legdays Int

State of Nevada
Legislative Fund

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
(Nevada State Legislature)

For the years ended June 30,
(Prepared on a legal-budget basis)

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>Special Session 1989</u>	<u>1989</u>
Personnel				
Legislator salaries	\$ 491,400	\$ 491,400	\$ -	\$ 491,400
Attache's salaries	1,662,445	1,573,420	2,081	1,277,005
Session temporary employees' salaries	681,375	529,130	-	519,650
Overtime/paid leave	1,202,641	1,124,020	-	771,533
Other pay	6,726	10,401	-	4,051
Legislators' retirement	508,200	436,200	-	294,600
Employer costs	<u>525,101</u>	<u>420,666</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>248,551</u>
	<u>5,077,888</u>	<u>4,585,237</u>	<u>2,135</u>	<u>3,606,790</u>
Travel				
Legislators	834,377	827,588	-	963,635
Pre-session orientation	-	6,157	-	15,565
Staff travel	<u>16,826</u>	<u>30,630</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,347</u>
	<u>851,203</u>	<u>864,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>984,547</u>
Operating				
Printing	850,679	1,064,028	7,663	987,752
Supplies	167,858	227,430	99	204,475
Legislators' stationery	33,211	28,777	-	15,069
Equipment rental and maintenance	813,655	735,313	-	651,848
Contract services	131,040	83,384	-	30,821
Telephone tolls/line charges	93,035	109,650	-	106,825
Teleconferencing	41,126	47,782	-	-
Computer software	2,655	12,659	-	-
Training	212	-	-	2,662
Transfers to other funds	-	5,000	-	-

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State of Nevada
Legislative Fund

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
(Nevada State Legislature) - Continued

For the years ended June 30,
(Prepared on a legal-budget basis)

	1993	1991	Special Session 1989	1989
Operating - Continued				
Postage	\$ 39,684	\$ 36,382	\$ -	\$ 16,320
Legislators' allowances	202,680	199,980	-	203,580
Uniforms and cleaning	13,001	11,085	-	7,828
Non state-owned				
building rent	-	-	-	24,677
Utilities	-	31,255	-	25,491
Small equipment				
purchases	44,770	91,632	-	-
Interest	12,451	19,196	-	9,234
Miscellaneous	-	384	-	3,200
	<u>2,446,057</u>	<u>2,703,937</u>	<u>7,762</u>	<u>2,289,782</u>
Capital				
Improvements	-	720,959	-	4,644
Furniture and				
equipment	57,470	119,558	-	78,988
Principal payments,				
capital lease	45,586	35,755	-	25,397
	<u>103,056</u>	<u>876,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,029</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 8,478,204</u>	<u>\$ 9,029,821</u>	<u>\$ 9,897</u>	<u>\$ 6,990,148</u>

Legislative sessions start on the third Monday in January in odd numbered years, and generally last six months. Costs of these sessions are incurred over a twenty-four month period beginning with the six months preceding session and ending with the twelve months after session.

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Table 3.2
LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Regular sessions			Special sessions		
		Legislature convenes	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Alabama	Annual	Jan Apr Feb	2nd Tues (b) 3rd Tues (c,d) 1st Tues (e)	30 L in 105 C	No	Yes (f)	12 L in 30 C
Alaska	Annual	Jan Jan	1st Mon (c) 2nd Mon (e)	120 C (g)	By 2/3 vote of members	Yes (h)	30 C
Arizona	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	(i)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Arkansas	Biennial odd year	Jan	2nd Mon	60 C (g)	No	Yes (f,j)	(j)
California	(k)	Jan	1st Mon (d)	None	No	No	None
Colorado	Annual	Jan	2nd Wed	120 C	By request, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Connecticut	Annual (l)	Jan Feb	Wed after 1st Mon (m) Wed after 1st Mon (n)	(o)	Yes (p)	(p)	None (q)
Delaware	Annual	Jan	2nd Tues	June 30	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Florida	Annual	Feb	Tues after 1st Mon (d)	60 C (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	20 C (g)
Georgia	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	40 L	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (h)	(r)
Hawaii	Annual	Jan	1st Wed	60 L (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (g)
Idaho	Annual	Jan	Mon on or nearest 9th day	None	No	No	20 C
Illinois	Annual	Jan	2nd Wed	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (h)	None
Indiana	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon (d,s)	odd 60 L or Apr 30, even 30 L or Mar 15	No	Yes	30 L or 40 C
Iowa	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	(t)	By petition, 2/3 members, both houses	Yes (h)	None
Kansas	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	odd None, even 90 C (g)	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kentucky	Biennial even yr	Jan	Tues after 1st Mon (d)	60 L (u)	No	No	None
Louisiana	Annual	Mar Apr	last Mon (d,m) last Mon (l, n)	odd 60 L in 85 C, even 30 L in 45 C	By petition, majority, each house	Yes (h)	30 C
Maine	(k,j)	Dec Jan	1st Wed (b) Wed after 1st Tues (n)	1st Wed of June (g) 3rd Wed of April (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, with consent of majority of members of each political party, each house	Yes (h)	None
Maryland	Annual	Jan	2nd Wed	90 C (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	30 C
Massachusetts	Annual	Jan	1st Wed	None	By petition (v)	Yes	None

See footnotes at end of table

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LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS—Continued

LEGISLATURES

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Month	Regular sessions		Special sessions			
			Legislature convenes	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Michigan	Annual	Jan	2nd Wed	(d)	None	No	No	None
Minnesota	(w)	Jan	Tues after 1st Mon	(m)	120 L or 1st Mon after 3rd Sat in May (w)	No	Yes	None
Mississippi	Annual	Jan	Tues after 1st Mon		125 C (g, s), 90 C (g, s)	No	No	None
Missouri	Annual	Jan	Wed after 1st Mon		May 10	By petition, 3/4 members, each house	Yes	30 C (y)
Montana	Biennial odd yr	Jan	1st Mon		90 L (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Nebraska	Annual	Jan	Wed after 1st Mon		odd 90 L (g); even 60 L (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Nevada	Biennial odd yr	Jan	3rd Mon		60 C (l)	No	No	20 C (t)
New Hampshire	Annual	Jan	Wed after 1st Tues	(d)	45 L	By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes	15 L (l)
New Jersey	Annual	Jan	2nd Tues		None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
New Mexico	Annual (l)	Jan	3rd Tues		odd 60 L, even 30 L	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (h)	30 C
New York	Annual	Jan	Wed after 1st Mon		None	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
North Carolina	(w)	Jan	3rd Wed after 2nd Mon	(m)	None	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes	None
North Dakota	Biennial odd yr	Jan	Tues after Jan 1, but not later than Jan 11 (d)		80 L (z)	No	Yes	None
Ohio	Annual	Jan	1st Mon		None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Oklahoma	Annual	Feb	1st Mon	(aa)	160 C	By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Oregon	Biennial odd yr	Jan	2nd Mon		None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Pennsylvania	Annual	Jan	1st Tues		None	By petition, majority, each house	No	None
Rhode Island	Annual	Jan	1st Tues		60 L (l)	No	No	None
South Carolina	Annual	Jan	2nd Tues	(d)	1st Thurs in June (g)	No	Yes	None
South Dakota	Annual	Jan	2nd Tues		odd 40 L, even 35 L	No	No	None
Tennessee	(w)	Jan	(bb)		90 L (s)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (l)
Texas	Biennial odd yr	Jan	2nd Tues		140 C	No	No	30 C
Utah	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon		45 C	No	No	30 C
Vermont	(w)	Jan	Wed after 1st Mon	(m)	None	No	Yes	None
Virginia	Annual	Jan	2nd Wed		odd 30 L (g), even 60 C (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None

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					Legislature may call	Subject	Session
Washington	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	odd 105 C	40 C	By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes 30 C
West Virginia	Annual	Feb Jan	2nd Wed (s, d) 2nd Wed (ret)	80 C (gg)		By petition, 1/5 members, each house	Yes (cc) None
Wisconsin	Annual (odd)	Jan	1st Mon (mt)	None	No	No	None
Wyoming	Annual (f)	Jan Feb	2nd Tues (mt) 3rd Mon (mt)	odd 40 L, even 20 L	No	No	Yes None
Dist. of Columbia	(ret)	Jan	2nd day	None			
American Samoa	Annual	Jan July	2nd Mon 2nd Mon	45 L 45 L	No	No	None
Guam	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon (f)	None	No	No	None
No. Mariana Islands	Annual	(gg)	(d, gg)	90 L (gg)	Upon request of presiding officers, both houses	Yes (h)	10 C
Puerto Rico	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	Apr 30 (g)	No	No	20 C
U.S. Virgin Islands	Annual	Jan	2nd Mon	75 L	No	No	15 C

Source: State constitutions and statutes.

Note: Some legislatures will also reconvene after normal session to consider bills vetoed by governor. Connecticut - if governor vetoes any bill, secretary of state must reconvene General Assembly on second Monday after the last day on which governor is either authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill with his objections, whichever occurs first. General Assembly must adjourn *one die* not later than three days after its reconvening. Hawaii - legislature may reconvene on 45th day after adjournment *one die*, in special session, without call. Louisiana - legislature meets in a maximum five day veto session on the 40th day after final adjournment. Missouri - if governor returns any bill on or after the fifth day before the last day on which legislature may consider bills (in even numbered years), legislature automatically reconvenes on first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for a maximum 10 L session. New Jersey - legislature meets in special session (without call or petition) to act on bills returned by governor on 45th day after *one die* adjournment of the regular session, if the second year expires before the 45th day (the day preceding the end of the legislative year). Utah - 2/3 of the members of each house favor reconvening to consider vetoed bills, a maximum five day session is set by the presiding officers. Virginia - legislature reconvenes on sixth Wednesday after adjournment for a maximum three day session (may be extended to seven days upon vote of majority of members elected to each house). Washington - upon petition of 1/3 of the members of each house, legislature meets 45 days after adjournment for a maximum five day session.

Key:

- (1) Calendar day.
- (2) Legislative day (in some states, called a session day or workday; definition may vary slightly, however, generally refers to any day on which either house of the legislature is in session).
- (3) Applies to each year unless otherwise indicated.
- (4) General election year (quadrennial election year).
- (5) Year after quadrennial election.
- (6) Legal provision for organizational session prior to stated convening date. Alabama - in the year after quadrennial election, on the second Tuesday in January for 10 L. California - in the even numbered, general election year, on first Monday in December for an organizational session, recess until the first Monday in January of the odd numbered year. Florida - in general election year, 14th day after election. Indiana - third Tuesday after first Monday in November. Kentucky - in odd numbered year, Tues. day after first Monday in January for 10 L. Louisiana - in year after general election, on first Monday

in January, not to exceed 11. Michigan - held in odd numbered year. New Hampshire - in even numbered year, first Wednesday in December. North Dakota - in December. South Carolina - in even numbered year, Tuesday after certification of election of its members for a maximum three day session. West Virginia - in year after general election, on second Wednesday in January. No. Mariana Islands - in year after general election, second Monday in January.

- (7) Other years.
- (8) By 2/3 vote each house.
- (9) Session may be extended by vote of members in both houses. Alaska - 2/3 vote for 10 day extension. Arkansas - 2/3 vote. Florida - 3/5 vote. Hawaii - petition of 2/3 membership for maximum 15 day extension. Kansas - 2/3 vote. Maine - 2/3 vote for maximum 10 L. Maryland - 3/5 vote for maximum 10 L. Mississippi - 2/3 vote for 30 C extension, no limit on number of extensions. Nebraska - 4/5 vote. South Carolina - 2/3 vote. Virginia - 2/3 vote for 10 C extension. West Virginia - 2/3 vote for if budget bill has not been acted upon three days before session ends, governor issues proclamation extending session. Puerto Rico - joint resolution.

(10) Bills of legislature convenes itself. Special sessions called by the legislature are unlimited in scope in Arizona, Georgia, Maine, and New Mexico.

(11) No constitutional or statutory provision, however, legislative rules require that regular sessions adjourn no later than Saturday of the week during which the 100th day of the session falls.

(12) After governor's business has been disposed of, members may remain in session up to 15 C by a 2/3 vote of both houses.

(13) Regular sessions begin after general election, in December of even numbered year. In California, legislature meets in December for an organizational session, recesses until the first Monday in January of the odd numbered year and continues in session until Nov. 30 of next even numbered year. In Maine, session which begins in December of general election year runs into the following year (odd numbered); second session begins in next even numbered year.

(14) Second session limited to consideration of specific types of legislation. Connecticut - individual legislators may only introduce bills of a fiscal nature, emergency legislation and bills raised by committees. Louisiana - fiscal matters. Maine - budgetary matters, legislation in the governor's call, emergency legislation referred to committees for study. New Mexico - budgets, appropriations and revenue bills, bills drawn pursuant to governor's message, vetoed bills. Wyoming - budget bills.

(15) Odd numbered years.

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Table 3.19
BILL AND RESOLUTION INTRODUCTIONS AND ENACTMENTS:
1992 AND 1993 REGULAR SESSIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Duration of session*	Introductions		Enactments		Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
		Bills	Resolutions	Bills	Resolutions		
Alabama	Feb 4-May 18, 1992	1,532	668	341	560	8	30L
	Feb 2-May 17, 1993	1,683	712	433	679	4	30L
Alaska	Jan 13-May 13, 1992	400	101	177	51	12 (a)	122L
	Jan 11-May 11, 1993	522	121	83	26	2	121L
Arizona	Jan 13-July 1, 1992	1,142	84	361	17	8	171C
	Jan 11-April 17, 1993	826	43	259	12	2	97C
Arkansas	No regular session in 1992 Jan 11-May 14, 1993	1,981	26	1,319	3	45	88C
California	Jan 6-Nov 30, 1992	2,383	209	1,374	147	334	150L
	Dec 7, 1992-Sept 11, 1993	3,664	282	1,307	123	240	130L
Colorado	Jan 8-May 6, 1992	586	14	352	2	13	120C
	Jan 13-May 12, 1993	617	10	340	1	5	120C
Connecticut	Feb 5-May 6, 1992	1,446	172	289	149	11 (a)	92C
	Jan 6-June 9, 1993	1,432	239	477	152	12 (a)	155C
Delaware	Jan 14-June 30, 1992	472	188	126	91	8	(b)
	Jan 12-June 30, 1993	610	213	98	109	7	(b)
Florida	Jan 14-Mar 13, 1992	2,348	168	282	136	20	60C
	Feb 2-April 4, 1993	2,191	207	398	163	16	62C
Georgia	Jan 14-Mar 31, 1992	2,429	1,070	870	807	27	40L
	Jan 11-Mar 23, 1993	1,359	1,020	632	851	16	40L
Hawaii	Jan 15-April 30, 1992	2,971	1,423	323	519	37	63L
	Jan 20-May 3, 1993	4,086	1,448	365	318	18	60L
Idaho	Jan 6-April 3, 1992	728	102	343	39	8	89C
	Jan 11-Mar 27, 1993	752	97	418	48	14	76C
Illinois	Jan 8, 1992-Jan 12, 1993	2,162	90	436	64	53 (a)	(b)
	Jan 12, 1993-Jan 12, 1994	3,694	195	527	108	33 (a)	(b)
Indiana	Nov 19, 1991-Feb 14, 1992	902	10	156	0	3 (a)	30L
	Nov 17, 1992-April 29, 1993	1,616	34	273	3	4 (a)	60L
Iowa	Jan 13-May 4, 1992	892	24	252	3	27 (c)	113C
	Jan 11-May 2, 1993	1,105	39	180	4	9 (c)	112C
Kansas	Jan 13-May 26, 1992	917	53	327	19	27 (a, c)	102C
	Jan 11-June 7, 1993	991	40	292	13	17 (a, c)	92C
Kentucky	Jan 7-April 24, 1992 No regular session in 1993	1,378	544	427	470	4 (a)	58L
Louisiana	Mar 16-June 22, 1992 (a)	1,389	679	1,137	403	32	56L
	Mar 29-June 10, 1993	1,234	660	1,039	505	21 (a)	52L
Maine	Jan 8-Mar 31, 1992	472	3	317	3	1	18L
	Dec 2, 1992-July 14, 1993	1,567	1	580	1	13	(b)
Maryland	Jan 8-April 10, 1992	2,351	49	652	10	89	94C
	Jan 13-April 12, 1993	2,548	50	642	6	100	90C
Massachusetts	Jan 8, 1992-Jan 5, 1993	7,353	0	414	0	39 (a)	(b)
	Jan 6, 1993-Jan 4, 1994	7,667	0	498	0	53 (a)	(b)
Michigan	Jan 8-Dec 20, 1992	1,365	18	309	1	13	92L
	Jan 13-Dec 13, 1993	2,232	42	362	2	16	117L
Minnesota	Jan 6-April 17, 1992	2,537	12 (c)	246	10 (c)	16	42L
	Jan 5-May 17, 1993	3,476	5	345	6	30	61L
Mississippi	Jan 7-May 16, 1992	2,693	535	676	221	0	125C
	Jan 5-April 2, 1993	4,346	343	406	155	17	90C
Missouri	Jan 8-May 15, 1992	1,471	2,000	161	1,300	19	128C
	Jan 6-May 14, 1993	1,401	2,100	197	1,200	6	129C
Montana	No regular session in 1992 Jan 4-April 24, 1993	1,213	83	707	65	4	90L
Nebraska	Jan 8-April 14, 1992	437	14	144	2	3 (a)	60L
	Jan 6-June 8, 1993	845	20	345	5	2	90L

INTR

Sr.

Nevada

New Ha

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Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon

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Rhode Is

South Ca

South Da

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

West Virg

Wisconsin

Wyoming

No. Mary

Porto R

U.S. Virg

See foot

INTRODUCTIONS AND ENACTMENTS: REGULAR SESSIONS—Continued

Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
8	30L
4	30L
12 (a)	122L
2	121L
8	171C
2	97C
45	88C
334	150L
240	130L
13	120C
5	120C
11 (a)	92C
12 (a)	155C
9	(b)
-	(b)
20	60C
16	62C
27	40L
16	40L
37	63L
18	60L
8	89C
14	76C
53 (a)	(b)
33 (a)	(b)
3 (a)	30L
4 (a)	60L
27 (c)	113C
9 (c)	112C
27 (a,c)	102C
17 (a,c)	92C
4 (a)	58L
32	56L
51 (a)	52L
1	38L
1	(b)
89	34C
100	90C
39 (a)	(b)
53 (a)	(b)
13	92L
16	117L
16	42L
30	61L
0	125C
17	90C
19	158C
6	129C
4	90L
3 (a)	60L
2	90L

State or other jurisdiction	Duration of session*	Introductions		Enactments		Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
		Bills	Resolutions	Bills	Resolutions		
Nevada	No regular session in 1992 Jan. 18-July 2, 1993	1,365	243	669	191	5	166C
New Hampshire	Jan. 8-June 17, 1992 Jan. 6-June 30, 1993	594 670	63 12	290 361	1 3	4 (a) 7 (a)	29L 36L
New Jersey	Jan. 14, 1992-Jan. 12, 1993 Jan. 12, 1993-Jan. 11, 1994	3,532 1,721	259 228	215 386	6 8	41 (a) 32 (a)	105L 67L
New Mexico	Jan. 21-Feb. 20, 1992 Jan. 19-Mar. 20, 1993	974 1,905	35 37	135 460	3 11	17 93	30C 60C
New York	Jan. 8-July 30, 1992 Jan. 6-July 7, 1993	17,667 14,596	3,731 3,607	846 720	3,731 3,607	51 (c) 93 (c)	151L 152L
North Carolina	May 26-July 25, 1992 Jan. 27-July 24, 1993	500 2,693	183 (f) 105	283 358	46 31	0 0	61C 179 C
North Dakota	No regular session in 1992 Jan. 5-April 24, 1993	1,062	154	648	122	20 (c)	77L
Ohio	Jan. 7-Dec. 31, 1992 Jan. 4-Dec. 30, 1993	424 841	58 70	202 78	36 30	4 0	(b) (b)
Oklahoma	Feb. 3-May 29, 1992 Jan. 5-May 28, 1993	1,194 1,416	50 57	404 366	11 9	17 (a) 14 (a)	71L 71L
Oregon	No regular session in 1992 Jan. 11-August 5, 1993	2,955	195	819	59	12 (a)	207C
Pennsylvania	Jan. 7-Nov. 30, 1992 Jan. 5-Dec. 15, 1993	1,257 3,816	266 307	228 131	180 199	9 0	(b) (b)
Rhode Island	Jan. 7-July 14, 1992 Jan. 5-July 23, 1993	3,946 4,093	415 341	538 528	194 178	18 39	(b) (b)
South Carolina	Jan. 14-June 4, 1992 Jan. 12-June 25, 1993	877 1,531	556 609	326 213	436 410	13 6	65L 67L
South Dakota	Jan. 14-Mar. 17, 1992 Jan. 12-Mar. 23, 1993	623 668	30 38	365 179	18 27	8 (a) 9	35L 40L
Tennessee	Jan. 30-May 6, 1992 Jan. 12-May 19, 1993	2,482 3,356	639 772	622 640	567 666	0 0	(b) (b)
Texas	No regular session in 1992 Jan. 12-May 31, 1993	4,380	2,601	1,075	2,217	24	140C
Utah	Jan. 13-Feb. 26, 1992 Jan. 18-Mar. 3, 1993	716 754	107 97	307 310	68 28	5 7	45C 45C
Vermont	Jan. 7-April 26, 1992 Jan. 6-May 16, 1993	564 799	104 110	165 115	80 82	0 2	112C 131C
Virginia	Jan. 8-Mar. 7, 1992 Jan. 3-Feb. 27, 1993	1,724 1,784	625 708	897 998	522 616	20 15	60L 45L
Washington	Jan. 13-Mar. 12, 1992 Jan. 11-April 25, 1993	1,255 2,127	54 102	247 536	6 17	33 (c) 35 (c)	60C 109C
West Virginia	Jan. 8-Mar. 14, 1992 Jan. 13-April 24, 1993	1,676 1,410	198 164	216 180	82 92	2 7 (a)	67C 74C
Wisconsin	Jan. 7, 1991-Jan. 4, 1993 Jan. 4, 1993-still active (g)	1,676 1,584 (g)	276 187 (g)	318 121 (g)	122 67 (g)	46 0 (g)	99L 56L (g)
Wyoming	Feb. 10-Mar. 17, 1992 Jan. 12-Mar. 5, 1993	346 611	22 27	101 236	1 2	3 7 (a)	29L 39L
No. Mariana Islands	(b) (b)	227 127	74 265	20 17	66 220	5 0	90C 90C
Puerto Rico	Jan. 13-May 31, 1992 Jan. 11-June 30, 1993 Sept. 13-Oct. 30, 1993	247 967 471	697 632 691	38 67 51	298 138 273	48 32 35	47L 63L 18L
U.S. Virgin Islands	Jan. 14, 1991-Jan. 11, 1993 (i) Jan. 26-Dec. 21, 1993	337 (i) 1,022	36 (i) 24	128 (i) 117	36 (i) 17	24 (a,i) 10 (a)	50C (i) 23C

See footnote

LEGISLATURES

Table 3.20
BILL AND RESOLUTION INTRODUCTIONS AND ENACTMENTS:
1992 AND 1993 SPECIAL SESSIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Duration of session*	Introductions		Enactments		Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
		Bills	Resolutions	Bills	Resolutions		
Alabama	Jan. 27-Feb. 3, 1992	44	56	7	45	0	8L
	Sept. 21-Oct. 1, 1992	211	138	46	127	5	7L
	Aug. 12-24, 1993	202	134	72	115	2	7L
Alaska	May 13-16, 1992	11	1	5	1	0	4L
	June 15-22, 1992	6	4	1	2	0	8L
	No special session in 1993						
Arkansas	Feb. 17-20, 1992	9	1	2	0	0	4C
	Feb. 17-May 7, 1992	3	0	0	0	0	81C
	Mar. 17-31, 1992	8	0	4	0	0	10C
	April 8-June 27, 1992	13	0	3	0	0	81C
	May 4-July 1, 1992	6	4	2	4	0	59C
	Feb. 23-Mar. 4, 1993	1	0	1	0	0	10C
	Mar. 11-16, 1993	18	0	9	0	0	6C
	June 7-11, 1993	10	4	0	0	0	5C
	Sept. 2, 1993	2	0	1	0	0	1C
	Sept. 27-28, 1993	1	1	0	0	0	2C
	Nov. 5-11, 1993	10	4	3	2	0	7C
	Dec. 17, 1993	4	0	2	0	0	1C
Arkansas	Feb. 24-Mar. 4, 1992	98	0	76	0	3	4C
	Dec. 14-18, 1992	26	0	7	0	0	5C
	No special session in 1993						
California	Jan. 6-Nov. 30, 1992	51	7	26	1	2	67L
	Oct. 8-Nov. 30, 1992	9	2	0	1	0	2L
	Jan. 4-Sept. 11, 1993	4	1	3	1	0	39L
Colorado	No special session in 1992						
	Sept. 7-11, 1993	36	2	10	0	0	5C
Connecticut	May 12-June 1, 1992	24	6	20	6	1	21C
	June 22-July 6, 1992	1	13	4	13	0	15C
	June 29-July 6, 1992	1	1	1	1	0	8C
	June 10-17, 1993	1	1	1	1	0	8C
	July 12, 1993	1	1	1	1	0	1C
	Sept. 22-27, 1993	1	1	1	1	0	6C
	Oct. 20, 1993	6	1	6	1	0	1C
Delaware	(a)	9	13	70 (b)	18 (b)	4	(c)
	(a)	16	10	63 (b)	13 (b)	0	(c)
Florida	Mar. 23-April 1, 1992	39	6	4	6	0	10C
	April 1, 1992	1	1	1	1	0	1C
	April 2-10, 1992	1	1	1	1	0	9C
	June 1-July 10, 1992	275	58	67	57	6	40C
	Dec. 9-11, 1992	23	14	9	15	0	3C
	May 24-28, 1993	18	8	12	7	0	5C
	Nov. 7-10, 1993	54	15	16	9	0	10C
Georgia	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Hawaii	No special session in 1992						
	Aug. 23-Sept. 13, 1993	15	13	8	10	0	11L
Idaho	July 27-28, 1992	4	7	3	1	0	2C
	No special session in 1993						
Illinois	Nov. 17-Dec. 2, 1992	2	0	0	0	0	5L
	Sept. 2-Nov. 14, 1993	4	15	1	12	0	29L
Indiana	No special session in 1992						
	June 9-30, 1993	28	0	2	0	1 (d)	18L
Iowa	May 20-22, 1992	16	0	4	0	0	3L
	June 25, 1992	2	0	1	0	0	1L
	No special session in 1993						
Kansas	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
	Feb. 17-1993	9	93	3	77	0	13L
Kentucky	May 10-27, 1992	16	96	2	91	1 (d)	14L
	Aug. 6, 1993	0	24	0	21	0	1L
	No special session in 1992						
Louisiana	No special session in 1992						
	Mar. 7-26, 1993	78	73	0	52	0	15L

*See footnotes at end of table.

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LEGISLATURES

INTRODUCTIONS AND ENACTMENTS: SPECIAL SESSIONS—Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Duration of session*	Introductions		Enactments		Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
		Bills	Resolutions	Bills	Resolutions		
Maine	Oct. 1-6, 1992	3	0	3	0	0	3L
	Oct. 16, 1992	1	0	1	0	0	1L
	No special session in 1993						
Maryland	April 10, 1992 No special session in 1993	11	0	5	0	0	1C
Massachusetts	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Michigan	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Minnesota	No special session in 1992 May 27, 1993	10	0	6	0	1	1L
Mississippi	Sept. 16, 1992	2	1	2	1	0	1C
	Aug. 9, 1993	2	1	2	1	0	1C
Missouri	No special session in 1992 Sept. 15-23, 1993	14	4	4	2	1	9C
Montana	Jan. 6-17, 1992	28	2	21	2	0	11L
	July 6-18, 1993	81	1	22	3	2	12L
	Nov. 29-Dec. 18, 1993	161	12	50	6	0	18L
Nebraska	July 31-Aug. 12, 1992	16	0	5	0	0	7L
	Sept. 21-Oct. 2, 1992	30	0	16	0	0	10L
	Nov. 5-12, 1992 No special session in 1993	8	0	2	0	0	7L
Nevada	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
New Hampshire	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
New Jersey	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
New Mexico	Jan. 3-6, 1992 No special session in 1993	16	0	2	0	0	4C
New York	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
North Carolina	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
North Dakota	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Ohio	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Oklahoma	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
Oregon	July 1-3, 1992 No special session in 1993	3	5	0	2	0	3C
Pennsylvania	Oct. 5-Nov. 30, 1992 No special session in 1993	4	1	0	1	0	3L
Rhode Island	Sept. 17, 1992	0	0	0	0	0	1L
	Oct. 23, 1992	18	4	0	4	0	1L
	Dec. 21, 1992 No special session in 1993	1	0	1	0	0	1L
South Carolina	No special sessions in 1992-1993						
South Dakota	No special session in 1992 May 25, 1993	5	0	5	0	0	11
Tennessee	Jan. 14-30, 1992 No special session in 1993	95	76	0	50	0	8L
Texas	Jan. 2-8, 1992	50	208	4	198	0	7C
	Nov. 10-Dec. 3, 1992 No special session in 1993	33	313	0	288	0	23C
Utah	May 19, 1992	6	3	6	3	0	1C
	Mar. 31, 1993	1	0	1	0	0	1C
	Oct. 11-12, 1993	30	3	17	1	0	2C
Vermont	No special session in 1992 July 20-21, 1993	1	3	1	3	0	2C
Virginia	April 15, 1992	6	31	5	29	1	1L
	April 7, 1993	6	21	3	21	0	1L

INTRODUCTIONS

State or other jurisdiction	
Washington	N
West Virginia	M M G
Wisconsin	A J A N
Wyoming	M N
U.S. Marianas Islands	18 18
Puerto Rico	J J J S O J A N
U.S. Virgin Islands	N N

Source: The Council of State, 1994.
* Actual adjournment date; statutory limitations for no Legislative Sessions. Legal Key:
C — Calendar day
L — Legislative day (in no session may vary slightly; how either chamber of the legisla (a) Dates of sessions 1992 only August 3 1993—Senate ber 4; Senate only Septem

INTRODUCTIONS AND ENACTMENTS: SPECIAL SESSIONS—Continued

Introductions	Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session	State or other jurisdiction	Duration of session*	Introductions		Enactments		Measures vetoed by governor	Length of session
					Bills	Resolutions	Bills	Resolutions		
0	0	3L	Washington	No special session in 1992 April 26-May 6, 1993	3	2	25 (f)	1	8 (c)	11C
0	0	1L	West Virginia	Mar. 14, 1992	4	7	4	7	0	1C
0	0	1C		May 16-27, 1993	19	8	10	7	0	12C
				Oct. 17-18, 1993	6	9	3	9	0	3C
			Wisconsin	April 14-June 4, 1992	-	3	2	3	0	19L
				June 1, 1992	0	2	0	2	0	1L
				Aug. 25-Sept. 15, 1992	1	3	1	3	0	7L
				No special session in 1993						
0	1	1L	Wyoming	May 11-13, 1992	18	0	1	0	0	3L
				No special session in 1993						
1	0	17	No. Mariana Islands	(g)	132	28	3	19	0	(c)
1	0	1C		(g)	60	32	2	28	0	(c)
2	1	9C	Puerto Rico	June 8-27, 1992	8	1	8	1	0	14L
2	0	11L		July 6-24, 1992	41	158	23	149	1	14L
3	2	12L		July 30-Aug. 18, 1992	24	0	11	5	0	13L
6	0	13L		Sept. 17-Oct. 6, 1992	17	84	12	84	0	20C
0	0	7L		Oct. 8-28, 1992	6	10	3	10	8	20C
0	0	10L		July 1-30, 1993	12	7	3	4	0	11L
0	0	7L		Aug. 11-30, 1993	11	1	10	1	1	20C
			Nov. 29-Dec. 17, 1993	12	119	8	118	1	19C	
			U.S. Virgin Islands	No special session in 1992 March 25, 1993	1	0	1	0	0	1C

Source: The Council of State Governments' legislative survey, March 1994.

* Actual adjournment dates are listed regardless of constitutional or statutory limitations. For more information on provisions, see Table 3.2, "Legislative Sessions: Legal Provisions."

Key:

C — Calendar day

L — Legislative day (in some states, called a session or workday; definition may vary slightly, however, it generally refers to any day on which either chamber of the legislature is in session).

(a) Dates of sessions: 1992—Senate and House: July 1, July 14, Senate only: August 3, 1993—Senate and House: February 9, July 1 and November 4, Senate only: September 21.

(b) Includes carryover bills and resolutions introduced in the regular session and passed during the special session on July 1 of each year.

(c) Length of session, Delaware: 1992—Senate 3L and House 2L, 1993—Senate 4L and House 3L, No. Mariana Islands: 1992—Senate 6L and House 5L, 1993—Senate 8L and House 3L.

(d) Veto overridden

(e) Partial vetoes

(f) Includes carryover bills introduced in the regular session and passed during the special session.

(g) The legislature met in special session between April and July in 1992 and 1993.

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Daily Sparks Tribune

DATE 4/18/95

SECTION A

PAGE 4

Legislature needs a limit

The Nevada Legislature should be limited in the number of days it meets every other year. The more time lawmakers have in Carson City, the more time they waste and the more they try to do.

Voters have been pretty clear in the last couple of years that they are tired of government trying to fix things. The only thing voters want government to fix is itself. And they want it to run more efficiently.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Raggio, R-Reno, has introduced a measure that would limit the days of the biennial sessions to 120 days. We think that's a little long for lawmakers to meet, but it's a step in the right direction. The measure would also require that lawmakers start the session on the first Monday in February and conclude four months later. Any legislative action taken after that would be void. It also says the government must submit his budget to legislative committees no later than two weeks before the session starts.

This is reasonable and efficient.

Lawmakers have traditionally wasted about 60 days of their session getting to know the system and the lobbyists. They wait for the governor's budget and then wait for leadership to make up its mind on what to do next.

With proper preparation, the session could be

handled in 30 or 40 days.

There are two legitimate problems with this bill, and we'd hope they would be addressed in future legislation.

First, there should be at least a three-day waiting period before lawmakers can pass a proposed budget. Citizens deserve the opportunity to react to the budget proposal. And the reality of living in Nevada is that three days is a minimum.

Second, some accommodation must be made to keep Las Vegans involved in the process. If not the current two-week break, established committee hearings should be held there.

And we would add this suggestion: All proposed legislation should be introduced before the session starts. Let's limit the proposal of new laws to the days before a legislator leaves the district. Then she or he would know before traveling to Carson City how constituents want to vote. This would speed up the process immeasurably. And improve it dramatically. None of these shortcomings, however, should derail the goal of this legislation. The last three sessions didn't end until late June or early July. At 167 days, the 1989 session was the legislature's longest in history. The 1993 session ran 166 days. Both were inexcusable. This legislation would make them illegal. Amen.

EXHIBIT F

1067

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Limiting the session

■ Proposal would bring state lawmakers home after 120 days.

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs now has Senate Joint Resolution 3 in its lap, which would amend the state constitution to limit each legislative session to 120 days.

In addition, the proposal would move back the start of each biennial session, from the current third Monday in January to the first Monday in February, and require the governor to submit his proposed spending plan before the Legislature opens.

All this makes good sense.

Currently, the Legislature is not bound by constitution or statute to ever conclude its business. Recent sessions have

dragged on into late June or early July, the end unleashing a frantic flurry of dubious legislation rushed forward with the hope of wrapping up matters in time to ensure the integrity of lawmakers' vacation plans.

Of course setting a specific deadline for sine die won't curtail the end-of-session machinations. But it will force lawmakers to set priorities, discouraging introduction of frivolous legislation. Lawmakers operating under a hard-and-fast deadline will become more focused and less prone to mischief.

Because SJR3 would amend the Nevada Constitution, the Legislature must approve it in consecutive sessions before submitting it to state voters for final judgment. We're confident the electorate would embrace the wisdom behind this proposal. It's time for lawmakers to take the first step.

The views expressed above are those of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. All other opinions expressed on these pages are those of the artist or author indicated.



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On Jan. 11, 1998, a story headlined "Gray wolves returned to Yellowstone Park."

The last sentence states that the animals were part of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plan to return the gray wolf to the northern Rockies states where the predator was wiped out by hunters some 60 years ago. It seems to me that the person who writes that is either anti-hunter, or too ignorant to know why the hunters wiped out the wolf, or probably both.

The fact is the hunters were hired by the government to eradicate the wolf along with coyotes and cougars. They were called government hunters and trappers, and they killed predators any way they could, including with poison. Hunters who weren't professionals were paid a bounty on

Divorced

To the editor:

This is in response to Armin Brott's "Punishing deadbeat dad" article on Jan. 8.

The reality is, Mr. Brott, that in many divorce cases where child support is involved, the standard of living goes up for the man, while for the woman it goes down.

Let's assume for a moment that the father is not paying his court-ordered child support payments.

He often rents only a one-bedroom apartment, but the mother is forced to pay rent on a two- or three-bedroom house.

His food bill is quite low, while the mom is feeding two or three children besides herself.

Utility costs will be higher for the mom, as well as laundering costs for the children's clothes.

For the mom, outside entertainment is usually out of the question. But dad has plenty of time for entertainment because he does not have little ones at home to worry about.

Now, let's talk about daycare. If the mom works, which averages \$100 per week for two children. In addition, she has school lunches, diaper supplies, mandatory P.E. uniforms, and field trips.

If she's unfortunate enough

COPY

Commissioners brainstorm during retreat

**MINUTES OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**Sixty-eighth Session
May 16, 1995**

The Committee on Elections and Procedures was called to order at 3:40 p.m., on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, Chairman Giunchigliani presiding in Room 331 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jack D. Close, Chairman
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Chairman
Mrs. Joan A. Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Richard Perkins, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dennis L. Allard
Mr. Joseph E. Dini, Jr.
Mrs. Jan Evans
Mr. Thomas A. Feticc
Mrs. Vivian L. Freeman
Mr. Bob Price

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. David E. Humke
Mrs. Jan Monaghan

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Erickson, Research Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Kathryn McClain, Legislative Analyst, Clark County
Kateri Cavin, Deputy Attorney General for the Secretary of State

campaign contributions

Chairman Giunchigliani conveyed A.B. 517 was Assemblywoman Segerblom's bill and required work concerning the calendar.

* * * * *

ASSEMBLY BILL 526 - Makes various changes relating to commission on ethics.

Chairman Giunchigliani communicated A.B. 526 would be deliberated in a subcommittee.

* * * * *

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 20 - Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to provide for commencement of regular legislative sessions in March.

Chairman Giunchigliani reminded A.J.R. 20 was Amend and Rereferred by committee on March 16 and was needed as a "jacket".

* * * * *

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 - Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session.

Chairman Giunchigliani announced no action would be taken until Assemblyman Price discussed A.J.R. 21 with Senator Raggio.

* * * * *

ASSEMBLY BILL 523 - Changes date of primary election.

Chairman Giunchigliani explained A.B. 523 changed the date of the primary election from the first Tuesday in September to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June.

Mr. Erickson stated he had called some of the states listed in (Exhibit I), and Wyoming informed they had 64 percent turnout of registered voters at the 1994

Work Session on Measures Previously Considered

Assembly Committee on Elections and Procedures

The following measures may be discussed during work sessions of the committee:

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 -- Urges Congress to enact legislation allowing states to establish daylight savings time as standard time throughout the year. (Heard 5-4-95)

SENATE BILL 169 -- Prohibits contributions by lobbyists in a prescribed period before, during and after a legislative session, and clarifies the prohibition of certain contracting and subcontracting by legislators. (Heard 4-25-95; No Action)

ASSEMBLY BILL 529 -- Requires transmittal of additional information on convicted felons to elections officials. (Heard 5-2-95; No Action; Questions raised in committee concerning information about deceased voters)

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24 -- Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for the election of the Supreme Court Chief Justice by the justices. (Heard 4-20-95; No Action)

ASSEMBLY BILL 372 -- Revises statutory provisions governing residency requirements for candidacy for and retention of public office. (Heard 3-28-95; No Action; Among other things, committee discussion indicated the need for definitions of certain terms, such as "constructively resided", and a typographical error -- "that" instead of "than" -- on line 20 of page 1.)

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS - NRS 218

ASSEMBLY BILL 274 -- Provides method for determining leadership in either the Assembly or Senate in the event that the number of members-elect of a house are evenly divided between two political parties. (Heard 4-11-95; No Action; The sponsor of the measure recommended adding the following to the bill: "Once the majority party is so established, the house shall elect members of that political party to serve in the customary positions of leadership for that session of the legislature." Also, the committee discussed the possibility that more than two political parties could have the same number of members elect. At a subsequent work session, committee members discussed alternative methods to break a tie. Also mentioned was the concept of the "winner" to receive first choice of the various leadership and committee posts, with selections alternating between political parties thereafter.)

EXHIBIT D

ASSEMBLY BILL 457 -- Requires a "cooling off period" before a legislator may become a legislative lobbyist. (Heard 4-20-95; No Action)

CAMPAIGN PRACTICES - NRS 294A

ASSEMBLY BILL 517 -- Revises provisions governing forms used for reporting campaign contributions and expenditures. (Heard 5-2-95; No Action; Assemblywoman Segerblom and Secretary of State working on amendments)

ETHICS - NRS 281

ASSEMBLY BILL 526 -- Makes various changes relating to the commission on ethics. (Heard 5-4-95; No Action)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20 -- Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for biennial regular sessions commencing on the first Monday of March, and concluding not later than the first Monday of July. (Initially heard on 3-9-95; Amended and Returned to Committee; No Action)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3 -- Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution by restricting biennial legislative sessions to no more than 120 calendar days, starting on the first Monday in February, with the Governor's budget to be submitted 14 calendar days in advance. (Heard 5-9-95; No Action)

ELECTIONS - NRS 293

ASSEMBLY BILL 523 -- Changes date of primary election from first Tuesday in September to first Tuesday after first Monday in June. (Heard 5-11-95; No Action)

ASSEMBLY BILL 564 -- Makes various changes to the provisions governing elections; requested by Clark County Elections Department (Heard 5-11-95; No Action)

**MINUTES OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**Sixty-eighth Session
June 1, 1995**

The Committee on Elections and Procedures was called to order at 3:40 p.m., on Thursday, June 1, 1995, Chairman Close presiding in Room 331 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jack D. Close, Chairman
Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Chairman
Mrs. Joan A. Lambert, Vice Chairman
Mr. Richard Perkins, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dennis L. Allard
Mr. Joseph E. Dini, Jr.
Mrs. Jan Evans
Mr. Thomas A. Fettic
Mr. David E. Humke
Mrs. Jan Monaghan
Mr. Bob Price

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mrs. Vivian L. Freeman

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Erickson, Research Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steven Miller, Citizen
Ms. Ande Engleman, former director of Nevada Press Association
Mr. Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association
Mr. David Howard, Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Assembly Committee on Elections and Procedures
June 1, 1995
Page 7

on A.B. 538.

Chairman Close opened the Work Session.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 - Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session.

Chairman Close stated he had received no comments in regard to a memo on S.J.R. 3. He had discussed with Assemblyman Price to obtain resolution between Assemblyman Price's bill and S.J.R. 3, but had not come to any conclusion. He believed the Committee was ready for action.

ASSEMBLYMAN ALLARD MOVED DO PASS ON S.J.R. 3.

ASSEMBLYMAN FETTIC SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chairman Close asked for further discussion.

Assemblywoman Giunchigliani asked Assemblyman Price for the status of A.J.R. 21. Assemblyman Price said they had not taken any action, and Senator Raggio was the key person. Assemblyman Price stated he had not talked with Senator Raggio, and he had no objection to S.J.R. 3 moving forward. He believed 120 days would be better than what legislature was presently doing. Assemblywoman Giunchigliani preferred both issues would go on the ballot to allow the public a right to vote and make a decision. Assemblywoman Giunchigliani stated her only concern was that just capping the number of days would not solve the budgetary issues.

Chairman Close discussed the interpretation that the legislators were going to get 100% pay increase if legislature went to annual sessions. Chairman Close thought when committee passed Assemblyman Price's bill, it was passed with the interpretation it would not be a change in the salaries of the legislators. Chairman Close asked Assemblyman Price his intent.

Assemblyman Price said committee did know it would be paid for 60 days of each session. The constitution says the first 60 days of regular session and so if you went to annual sessions that would be a regular session, but the overall cost would still be low.

Assembly Committee on Elections and Procedures
June 1, 1995
Page 8

Assemblyman Dini recalled the Senator said legislators were going to do this in 120 days.

Assemblyman Allard remembered the Senator talking about the provision for the legislature to receive the budget 14 days before the commencement of the session, and the Senator indicated that would get the budget process moving, and thereby allow legislature to finish within 120 days.

Chairman Close asked for further discussion. There was none. Chairman Close asked for a motion.

THE MOTION CARRIED.
ASSEMBLYWOMEN EVANS AND GIUNCHIGLIANI VOTED NO.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN FREEMAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.

* * * * *

Chairman Close asked to go on record for thanking Ms. Kathy Ferguson, Registrar of Voters, Clark County, for bringing the voting machine to the legislature for committee to view.

Chairman Close gave the committee a schedule of bills to be discussed at the June 6, 1995, committee meeting and stated committee was on target with bills to be discussed with no backlog.

There being no further business to come before committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bobbie Mikesell

Bobbie Mikesell,
Committee Secretary

Senate Bill No. 297 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 323.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblymen Batten, Steel and Anderson.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 323:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 323 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 355.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblyman Giunchigliani.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 355:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 355 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 385.

Bill read third time.

Remarks by Assemblyman Allard.

Roll call on Senate Bill No. 385:

YEAS—42.

NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 385 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Bill ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Assemblymen Close, Evans, Giunchigliani, Ernaut and Price.

Assemblymen Allard, Bennett and Hettrick moved the previous question. Motion carried.

The question being on the passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 3.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 3:

YEAS—39.

NAYS—Evans, Giunchigliani, Goldwater—3.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 of the 67th Session.

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Division of State Parks and the Administrator of the Division of Wildlife of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12—Assemblyman Bennett

FILE NUMBER 103

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to prohibit an exemption for elected public officers from laws applicable to the general public.

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That a new section be added to article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada, to read as follows:

Sec. 38. 1. The legislature shall not enact any law or provision of law exempting any elected public officer from the provisions of a law otherwise applicable to all members of the general public.

2. This section applies prospectively from the date of enactment and does not invalidate any provision of law enacted before that date nor limit any further amendment of any such law, except that no new exemption may be amended into an existing law.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3—Senators Raggio, O'Connell, Augustine, Jacobsen, James, Lowden, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O'Donnell, Porter, Regan, Townsend and Washington

FILE NUMBER 104

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to commence each regular session of the legislature in February, to limit the length of each regular session and to require the governor to submit a proposed executive budget before the commencement of each regular session.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That section 2 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall commence on the [3rd] 1st Monday of [January next ensuing] February following the election of members of the Assembly, unless the Governor of the State shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation.

2. The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later than midnight Pacific standard time 120 calendar days following its commencement. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard time

on the 120th calendar day is void, unless the legislative action is conducted during a special session convened by the Governor.

3. The Governor shall submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each regular session.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That section 12 of article 17 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec: 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on the second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and the second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session of the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Seven; and the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter biennially . [, commencing on the first Monday of January.]

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 of the 67th Session—Senator O'Connell

FILE NUMBER 105

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to authorize specifically the legislative review of administrative regulations.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That section 1 of article 3 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Section [.] 1. 1. The powers of the Government of the State of Nevada shall be divided into three separate departments,—the Legislative,—the Executive and the Judicial; and no persons charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any functions, appertaining to either of the others, except in the cases [herein] expressly directed or permitted [.] *in this constitution.*

2. If the legislature authorizes the adoption of regulations by an executive agency which bind persons outside the agency, the legislature may provide by law for:

(a) The review of these regulations by a legislative agency before their effective date to determine initially whether each is within the statutory authority for its adoption;

(b) The suspension by a legislative agency of any such regulation which appears to exceed that authority, until it is reviewed by a legislative body composed of members of the Senate and Assembly which is authorized to act on behalf of both houses of the legislature; and

(c) The nullification of any such regulation by a majority vote of that legislative body, whether or not the regulation was suspended.

SJR 3 of the 68th Session - 1997

BDR C-85

Introduced:01/20/97

Introduced By: Raggio

Summary: Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

01/20/97 Returned from Secretary of State. Read first time.
Referred to Committee on Government Affairs. To printer.

01/21/97 From printer. To committee: 2-19; 3-5

03/10/97 From committee: Do pass.

03/12/97 Read second time.

03/13/97✓ Read third time. Passed. Title approved. To Assembly.

03/17/97 In Assembly.
Read first time. Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics.
To committee: 7-2

07/03/97 From committee: Do pass.

07/03/97 Declared an emergency measure under the Constitution.

07/03/97✓ Read third time. Passed. Title approved. To Senate.

07/04/97 In Senate.
To enrollment.

07/08/97 Enrolled and delivered to Secretary of State. File No. 147.

07/08/97 (On 1998 Ballot)



BILL SUMMARY

69th REGULAR SESSION
OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE

PREPARED BY
RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU
Nonpartisan Staff of the Nevada State Legislature

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF THE 68TH SESSION (File No. 147)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 proposes to amend the *Constitution of the State of Nevada* to change the first day of a regular biennial legislative session from the third Monday in January to the first Monday in February and to limit the length of each such session to no more than 120 calendar days. In addition, the measure requires the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature not later than 14 days before the start of each regular session.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 was approved in identical form by both the 1995 and 1997 Nevada Legislatures. Accordingly, this proposal will be submitted to the voters for their approval or disapproval at the general election of 1998.

S.J.R. 3 of the 68th Session

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—SENATORS RAGGIO, O'CONNELL, AUGUSTINE, JACOBSEN, JAMES, LOWDEN, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, O'DONNELL, PORTER, REGAN, TOWNSEND AND WASHINGTON

JANUARY 20, 1997

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.



EXPLANATION - Matter in italics is new, matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to commence each regular session of the legislature in February, to limit the length of each regular session and to require the governor to submit a proposed executive budget before the commencement of each regular session.

1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
2 JOINTLY, That section 2 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada
3 be amended to read as follows:

4 Sec. 2. 1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall
5 commence on the [3rd] 1st Monday of [January next ensuing] *February*
6 *following* the election of members of the Assembly, unless the Governor of
7 the State shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation.

8 2. *The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later*
9 *than midnight Pacific standard time 120 calendar days following its*
10 *commencement. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard*
11 *time on the 120th calendar day is void, unless the legislative action is*
12 *conducted during a special session convened by the Governor.*

13 3. *The Governor shall submit the proposed executive budget to the*
14 *Legislature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each*
15 *regular session.*

16 And be it further

17 RESOLVED, That section 12 of article 17 of the constitution of the State of
18 Nevada be amended to read as follows:

19 Sec: 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on
20 the second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and



1 the second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of
2 January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session of
3 the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall commence
4 on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Seven; and
5 the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter biennially . [,
6 commencing on the first Monday of January].

30



**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Sixty-ninth Session
February 19, 1997**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chairman Ann O'Connell, at 2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 19, 1997, in Room 2143 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Ann O'Connell, Chairman
Senator William J. Raggio, Vice Chairman
Senator Jon C. Porter
Senator William R. O'Donnell
Senator Raymond C. Shaffer
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Michael A. (Mike) Schneider

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dana R. Bennett, Committee Policy Analyst
Kim Marsh Guinasso, Committee Counsel
Nancy S. Arnold, Committee Secretary
Jason Williams, Intern, Senator Raggio Senatorial Office

OTHERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth N. Fretwell, Lobbyist, Clark County
Carolyn Edwards, Lobbyist, Legislative Representative, Clark County School District
Irene E. Porter, Lobbyist, Southern Nevada Home Builders Association (SNHBA)
Mary Henderson, Lobbyist, Public Affairs Director, Washoe County
Richard A. Wright, Lobbyist, Washoe County School District
Carole A. Vilardo, Lobbyist, Nevada Taxpayers Association

Commission does not have authority to enter into that type of contract, unlike the board of county commissioners who have clear statutory authority.

Richard A. Wright, Lobbyist, Washoe County School District, testified in favor of S.B. 46 and summarized the school district's relationship with the county. He expressed the partnership programs in Washoe County had been extremely successful.

Chairman O'Connell closed the hearing on S.B. 46 and opened the hearing with Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3
OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION:

Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of the legislative session.

Senator William J. Raggio, presented S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session stating he had drafted the bill because the concept limiting legislative sessions had been before the Legislature for the previous two decades. He surmised the Senate voted in favor of the legislation last session with only two senators who voted against it. He added if the bill were passed this session it would go on the ballot for the public to determine if it should be a part of the constitution. He explained the resolution would limit the session to 120-calendar days pointing out the biggest complaint has been the length of past sessions. He estimated they have lasted about 169 days declaring there has not been a session under 100 days in many years. He asserted Nevada was one of the smallest states in population yet has longer sessions than most all other states.

Senator Raggio submitted a chart (Exhibit C) indicating 32 states that have outright limitations on the length of their legislative sessions, including other biennial legislatures. He indicated most of the 13 states listed that do not have limitations are full-time legislative bodies who meet on a daily basis.

He commented the intent of drafting the bill was to streamline government, and to save taxpayers' money, reiterating it was sponsored by almost all the Senate during the 1995 session. He explained the measure would change the commencement date of the Legislature from the third Monday of January, which has been in the constitution since 1864. The 120-day limitation would have the

session begin on the first Monday of February and the Legislature would adjourn around June 1. He continued by stating time would be extended between the election process and the date the Legislature convenes, expressing there had been concern by incoming Governors that there had not been time to prepare an Executive Budget by the third Monday of January, but S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session would extend the time frame by about two weeks.

Senator Raggio, recognized concern the Legislature had not received an Executive Budget until the end of the first or second week after session convened. He called attention to section 2, subsection 3 of S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session which would require the Governor to submit an Executive Budget no later than 14-calendar days prior to the beginning of session. All legislators would have opportunity to review the Executive Budget two weeks prior to the start of session. He concluded the measure had been an attempt to deal with the length of legislative sessions in an effective, efficient manner.

Jason Williams, Intern, Senator Raggio Senatorial Office, called attention to the fact that Arizona is the only state that does not have constitutional amendment limiting the length of its legislative session.

Senator Raggio interceded by stating statutes can be changed whereas a constitutional amendment imposes a finite date. He continued urging the committee to support the bill and insisted the public was entitled to an opportunity to vote on the issue.

Chairman O'Connell questioned if the seven states with biennial legislatures had limitations on the length of their sessions.

Mr. Williams clarified six of the seven states have limitations but Oregon did not. He indicated that Kentucky has a limit of 60 days, pointing out that was half of what S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session proposes.

Senator Raggio, asserted the length of session in the past was controlled by the time it took to get through the budget. He stated the time required has been reduced even though the budget was more complex, attributing it to the economic report which was due May 1.

Senator O'Donnell inquired why the Legislature waited for the Economic Forum to present a budget prior to closing their budget.

Senator Raggio iterated the Economic Forum reports on General Fund revenue every December before the Legislature convenes. The dollar amount reflected on the report must be used by both executive and legislative branches in opening and closing budgets.

Mr. Williams mentioned the 120 days set forth in the bill was one of the longer sessions in the entire 50 states of the union, expressing his opinion it was neither a too long nor a too short time-frame.

Senator Schneider asked how efficient are the legislative bodies with limited sessions. He expressed concern that a lot of work may have to be turned over to staff resulting in a lack of quality.

Senator Raggio responded there was \$10 million budgeted for the legislative session because of the length of the sessions. He said quality would not be sacrificed because legislators would manage their time more effectively.

Chairman O'Connell questioned how many other legislatures are citizen legislatures.

Raggio responded the seven biennial legislatures were citizen-type legislatures.

Senator O'Donnell inquired if the bill would circumvent interim committees that meet on a regular basis.

Senator Raggio confirmed the bill would not impede interim committees and does not prevent the Governor from calling special sessions.

Senator Titus commented she voted against the bill last session, however had planned to vote for the bill this session. She continued by pointing out after considering the length and number of special sessions in states with time limitations, the actual length of their legislative sessions increased. She called attention to a report published last session that ranked the Nevada Legislature the third most efficient legislature in the nation, based on cost, length of session, and salary of members. She asserted had term limits been in place, which they were now, Nevada would have ranked higher. She closed by stating while she was in support of S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session the efficiency of the legislative body should be appreciated.

Carole A. Vilardo, Lobbyist, Nevada Taxpayers Association, testified in support

of S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session alleging there would be tremendous cost savings of taxpayers' dollars if the bill was passed, adding public confidence would increase.

Chairman O'Connell closed the hearing on S.J.R. 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session and asked for committee introduction of two bill draft requests (BDR).

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 18-591: Authorizes department of human resources and department of education to issue subpoenas to compel attendance of witnesses at certain administrative hearings.

SENATOR SCHNEIDER MOVED FOR COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION OF BDR 18-591.

SENATOR SHAFFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

BILL DRAFT REQUEST 23-413: Revises provisions governing mediation of collective bargaining disputes between local government employer and employee organization.

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED FOR COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION OF BDR 23-413.

SENATOR O'DONNELL SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

Chairman O'Connell requested the committee to review the Senate amendment to S.B. 42 (Exhibit D). She reminded the committee members a motion was made for do pass of the bill contingent upon completion of the amendment. She stated after the committee members reviewed and approved the amendment the bill would be taken to the floor. She inquired if the committee members

Table 3.2
LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Regular sessions			Limitation on length of session (a)	Special sessions		
		Legislature convenes		Legislature may call		Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session	
		Month	Day					
Alabama	Annual	Jan. Apr. Feb.	2nd Tues. (b) 3rd Tues. (c,d) 1st Tues. (e)	30 L in 105 C	No	Yes (f)	12 L in 30 C	
Alaska	Annual	Jan. Jan.	3rd Mon. (c) 2nd Mon. (e)	120 C (g)	By 2/3 vote of members	Yes (h)	30 C	
Arizona	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(i)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None	
Arkansas	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	2nd Mon.	60 C (g)	No	Yes (f,i)	(j)	
California	(k)	Jan.	1st Mon. (d)	None	No	No	None	
Colorado	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	120 C	By request, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None	
Connecticut	Annual (l)	Jan. Feb.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (m) Wed. after 1st Mon. (n)	(o)	Yes (p)	(p)	None (e)	
Delaware	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	June 30	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None	
Florida	Annual	Feb.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (d)	60 C (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	20 C (g)	
Georgia	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	40 L	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (h)	(r)	
Hawaii	Annual	Jan.	3rd Wed.	60 L (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (g)	
Idaho	Annual	Jan.	Mon. on or nearest 9th day	None	No	No	20 C	
Illinois	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (h)	None	
Indiana	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (d,s)	odd-61 L or Apr. 30; even-30 L or Mar. 15	No	Yes	30 L or 40 C	
Iowa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	By petition, 2/3 members, both houses	Yes (h)	None	
Kansas	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	odd-None even-90 C (g)	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None	
Kentucky	Biennial-even yr.	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (d)	60 L (v)	No	No	None	
Louisiana	Annual	Mar. Apr.	last Mon. (d,m) last Mon. (l, n)	odd-60 L in 85 C; even-30 L in 45 C	By petition, majority, each house	Yes (h)	30 C	
Missouri	(k,l)	Dec. Jan.	1st Wed. (b) Wed. after 1st Tues. (n)	3rd Wed. of June (g) 3rd Wed. of April (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, with consent of majority of members of each political party, each house	Yes (h)	None	
Maryland	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	90 C (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	30 C	
Massachusetts	Annual	Jan.	1st Wed.	None	By petition (v)	Yes	None	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.2
LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Regular sessions				Special sessions		
	Year	Legislature convenes		Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
		Month	Day				
Alabama	Annual	Jan. Apr. Feb.	2nd Tues. (b) 3rd Tues. (c,d) 1st Tues. (e)	30 L. & 105 C	No	Yes (f)	12 L. in 30 C
Alaska	Annual	Jan. Jan.	3rd Mon. (c) 2nd Mon. (e)	120 C (g)	By 2/3 vote of members	Yes (h)	30 C
Arizona	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(j)	By petition, 1/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Arkansas	Biennial-odd year	Jan.	2nd Mon.	60 C (g)	No	Yes (f,j)	(j)
California	(k)	Jan.	1st Mon. (d)	None	No	No	None
Colorado	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	120 C	By request, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Connecticut	Annual (l)	Jan. Feb.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (m) Wed. after 1st Mon. (n)	(e)	Yes (p)	(p)	None (q)
Delaware	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	June 30	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Florida	Annual	Feb.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (k)	60 C (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	20 C (g)
Georgia	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	40 L	By petition, 1/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	(r)
Hawaii	Annual	Jan.	3rd Wed.	48 L (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (g)
Idaho	Annual	Jan.	Mon. on or nearest 9th day	None	No	No	20 C
Illinois	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes (h)	None
Iowa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (h,s)	odd-61 L or Apr. 30; even-30 L or Mar. 15	No	Yes	30 L or 40 C
Iowa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	(i)	By petition, 2/3 members, both houses	Yes (h)	None
Kansas	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	odd-None; even-90 C (g)	Petition to governor of 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Kentucky	Biennial-even yr	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (k)	60 L (u)	No	No	None
Louisiana	Annual	Mar. Apr.	1st Mon. (d,m) last Mon. (l, n)	odd-60 L in 85 C; even-30 L in 45 C	By petition, majority, each house	Yes (h)	30 C
Maine	(k,l)	Dec. Jan.	1st Wed. (h) Wed. after 1st Tues. (n)	3rd Wed. of June (s) 3rd Wed. of April (g)	Joint call, presiding officers, with consent of majority of members of each political party, each house	Yes (h)	None
Maryland	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	90 C (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	30 C
Massachusetts	Annual	Jan.	1st Wed.	None	By petition (v)	Yes	None

See footnotes at end of table.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS—Continued

LEGISLATURES

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Regular sessions			Special sessions		
		Month	Day	Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
Michigan	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed. (d)	None	No	No	None
Minnesota	(w)	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon. (m)	12 ³ L or 1st Mon. after 3rd Sat. in May (w)	No	Yes	None
Mississippi	Annual	Jan.	Tues. after 1st Mon.	125 C (g.x); 90 C (g.x)	No	No	None
Missouri	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	May 30	By petition, 3/4 members, each house	Yes	30 C (y)
Montana	Biennial-odd yr.	Jan.	1st Mon.	90 L (g)	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Nebbraska	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	odd-90 L (g); even-60 L (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None
Nevada	Biennial-odd yr.	Jan.	3rd Mon.		No	No	20 C (f)
New Hampshire	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Tues. (d)	4 ¹ L	By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes	15 L (k)
New Jersey	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
New Mexico	Annual (f)	Jan.	3rd Tues.	odd-60 C; even-30 C	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (h)	30 C
New York	Annual	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon.	None	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes (h)	None
North Carolina	(w)	Jan.	3rd Wed. after 2nd Mon. (m)	None	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes	None
North Dakota	Biennial-odd yr.	Jan.	Tues. after Jan. 3, but not later than Jan. 11 (d)	80 L (x)	No	Yes	None
Ohio	Annual	Jan.	1st Mon.	None	Joint call, presiding officers, both houses	Yes	None
Oklahoma	Annual	Feb.	1st Mon. (aa)	160 C	By 2/3 vote of members, each house	Yes (h)	None
Oregon	Biennial-odd yr.	Jan.	2nd Mon.	None	By petition, majority, each house	Yes	None
Pennsylvania	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues.	None	By petition, majority, each house	No	None
Rhode Island	Annual	Jan.	1st Tues.		No	No	None
South Carolina	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues. (d)	1st Thurs. in June (g)	No	Yes	None
South Dakota	Annual	Jan.	2nd Tues.	odd-40 L; even-35 L	No	No	None
Tennessee	(w)	Jan.	(bb)		By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 L (i)
Texas	Biennial-odd yr.	Jan.	2nd Tues.	140 C	No	No	30 C
Utah	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	45 C	No	No	30 C
Vermont	(w)	Jan.	Wed. after 1st Mon. (m)	None	No	Yes	None
Virginia	Annual	Jan.	2nd Wed.	odd-30 C (g); even-60 C (g)	By petition, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	None

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS—Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Year	Regular convening		Limitation on length of session (a)	Legislature may call	Legislature may determine subject	Limitation on length of session
		Month	Day				
Washington	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	odd-105 C; even-60 C	By vote, 2/3 members, each house	Yes	30 C
West Virginia	Annual	Feb.	2nd Wed. (c,d)	60 C (g)	By petition, 3/5 members, each house	Yes (cc)	None
		Jan.	2nd Wed. (e)				
Wisconsin	Annual (dd)	Jan.	1st Mon. (m)	None	No	No	None
Wyoming	Annual (l)	Jan.	2nd Tues. (m)	odd-40 L; even-20 L	No	Yes	None
		Feb.	3rd Mon. (n)				
Dist. of Columbia	(cc)	Jan.	2nd day	None			
American Samoa	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	45 L	No	No	None
		July	2nd Mon.	45 L			
Guam	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon. (ff)	None	No	No	None
No. Mariana Islands	Annual	(gg)	(d,gg)	90 L (gg)	Upon request of presiding officers, both houses	Yes (h)	10 C
Puerto Rico	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	Apr. 30 (g)	No	No	20 C
U.S. Virgin Islands	Annual	Jan.	2nd Mon.	75 L	No	No	15 C

Sources: State constitutions and statutes.

Note: Some legislatures will also reconvene after normal session to consider bills vetoed by governor. Connecticut—if governor vetoes any bill, secretary of state must reconvene General Assembly on second Monday after the last day on which governor is either authorized to transmit or has transmitted every bill with his objections, whichever occurs first; General Assembly must adjourn *sine die* not later than three days after its reconvening. Hawaii—legislature may reconvene on 45th day after adjournment *sine die*, in special session, without call. Louisiana—legislature meets in a maximum five-day veto session on the 40th day after final adjournment. Missouri—if governor returns any bill on or after the fifth day before the last day on which legislature may consider bills (in even-numbered years), legislature automatically reconvenes on first Wednesday following the second Monday in September for a maximum 10 C session. New Jersey—legislature meets in special session (without call or petition) to act on bills returned by governor on 45th day after *sine die* adjournment of the regular session; if the second year expires before the 45th day, the day preceding the end of the legislative year. Utah—if 2/3 of the members of each house favor reconvening to consider vetoed bills, a maximum five-day session is set by the presiding officers. Virginia—legislature reconvenes on sixth Wednesday after adjournment for a maximum three-day session (may be extended to seven days upon vote of majority of members elected to each house). Washington—upon petition of 2/3 of the members of each house, legislature meets 45 days after adjournment for a maximum five-day session.

Key:

C—Calendar day

L—Legislative day (in some states, called a session day or workday; definition may vary slightly, however, generally refers to any day on which either house of the legislature is in session)

(a) Applies to each year unless otherwise indicated.

(b) General election year (quadrennial election year).

(c) Year after quadrennial election.

(d) Legal provision for organizational session prior to stated convening date. Alabama—in the year after quadrennial election, on the second Tuesday in January for 10 C. California—in the even-numbered, general election year, on first Monday in December for an organizational session, recess until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year. Florida—in general election year, 14th day after election. Indiana—third Tuesday after first Monday in November. Kentucky—in odd-numbered year, Tuesday after first Monday in January for 10 L. Louisiana—in year after general election, second Monday

in January, not to exceed 3 L. Michigan—held in odd-numbered year. New Hampshire—in even-numbered year, first Wednesday in December. North Dakota—in December. South Carolina—in even-numbered year, Tuesday after certification of election of its members for a maximum three-day session. West Virginia—in year after general election, on second Wednesday in January. No. Mariana Islands—in year after general election, second Monday in January.

(e) Other years.

(f) By 2/3 vote each house.

(g) Session may be extended by vote of members in both houses. Alaska: 2/3 vote for 10-day extension. Arkansas: 2/3 vote. Florida: 3/5 vote. Hawaii: petition of 2/3 membership for maximum 15-day extension. Kansas: 2/3 vote. Maine: 2/3 vote for maximum 10 L. Maryland: 3/5 vote for maximum 30 C. Mississippi: 2/3 vote for 30 C extension, no limit on number of extensions. Nebraska: 4/5 vote. South Carolina: 2/3 vote. Virginia: 2/3 vote for 30 C extension. West Virginia: 2/3 vote (or if budget bill has not been acted upon three days before session ends, governor issues proclamation extending session). Puerto Rico: joint resolution.

(h) Only if legislature convenes itself. Special sessions called by the legislature are unlimited in scope in Arizona, Georgia, Maine, and New Mexico.

(i) No constitutional or statutory provision; however, legislative rules require that regular sessions adjourn no later than Saturday of the week during which the 100th day of the session falls.

(j) After governor's business has been disposed of, members may remain in session up to 15 C by a 2/3 vote of both houses.

(k) Regular sessions begin after general election, in December of even-numbered year. In California, legislature meets in December for an organizational session, recesses until the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year and continues in session until Nov. 30 of next even-numbered year. In Maine, session which begins in December of general election year runs into the following year (odd-numbered); second session begins in next even-numbered year.

(l) Second session limited to consideration of specific types of legislation. Connecticut—individual legislators may only introduce bills of a fiscal nature, emergency legislation and bills raised by committees. Louisiana—fiscal matters. Maine—budgetary matters; legislation in the governor's call; emergency legislation; legislation referred to committees for study. New Mexico—budgets, appropriations and revenue bills; bills drawn pursuant to governor's message; vetoed bills. Wyoming—budget bills.

(m) Odd-numbered years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: LEGAL PROVISIONS—Continued

- (n) Even-numbered years.
- (o) Odd-numbered years—not later than Wednesday after first Monday in June; even-numbered years—
not later than Wednesday after first Monday in May.
- (p) Constitution provides for regular session convening dates and allows that sessions may also be held
" . . . at such other times as the General Assembly shall judge necessary." Call by majority of legislators
is implied.
- (q) Upon completion of business.
- (r) Limited to 40 L. unless extended by 3/5 vote and approved by the governor, except in cases of im-
peachment proceedings.
- (s) Legislators may reconvene at any time after organizational meeting; however, second Monday in
January is the final date by which regular session must be in process.
- (t) Indirect limitation; usually restrictions on legislator's pay, per diem, or daily allowance.
- (u) May not extend beyond April 15.
- (v) Joint rules provide for the submission of a written statement requesting special session by a speci-
fied number of members of each chamber.
- (w) Legal provision for session in odd-numbered year; however, legislature may divide, and in prac-
tice has divided, to meet in even-numbered years as well.
- (x) 90 C sessions every year, except the first year of a gubernatorial administration during which the

legislative session runs for 125 C.

- (y) 30 C if called by legislature; 60 C if called by governor.
- (z) No legislative day is shorter than a natural day.
- (aa) Odd-number years will include a regular session commencing on the first Tuesday after the first
Monday in January and recessing not later than the first Monday in February of that year. Limited con-
stitutional duties can be performed.
- (bb) Commencement of regular session depends on concluding date of organizational session. Legis-
lature meets, in odd-numbered year, on second Tuesday in January for a maximum 15 C organizational
session, then returns on the Tuesday following the conclusion of the organizational session.
- (cc) According to a 1955 attorney general's opinion, when the legislature has petitioned to the gover-
nor to be called into session, it may then act on any matter.
- (dd) The legislature, by joint resolution, establishes the session schedule of activity for the remainder
of the biennium at the beginning of the odd-numbered year.
- (ee) Each Council period begins on January 2 of each odd-numbered year and ends on January 1 of
the following odd-numbered year.
- (ff) Legislature meets on the first Monday of each month following its initial session in January.
- (gg) 60 L before Aug 31 and 30 L after July 31.

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Sixty-ninth Session
March 5, 1997**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chairman Ann O'Connell, at 2:15 p.m., on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, in Room 2143 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Ann O'Connell, Chairman
Senator William J. Raggio, Vice Chairman
Senator Jon C. Porter
Senator William R. O'Donnell
Senator Raymond C. Shaffer
Senator Dina Titus
Senator Michael A. (Mike) Schneider

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dana R. Bennett, Committee Policy Analyst
Kim Marsh Guinasso, Committee Counsel
Angela Culbert, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephanie S. Tyler, Lobbyist, City of Sparks
William E. Isaeff, Lobbyist, Deputy City Manager, City of Sparks
Steve W. Driscoll, Lobbyist, Court Administrator, City of Sparks Municipal Court
Dale A.R. Erquiaga, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State
Marvin A. Leavitt, Lobbyist, City of Las Vegas
Elizabeth N. Fretwell, Lobbyist, Clark County
Barbara McKenzie, Lobbyist, City of Reno
Georgia J. Rohrs, Acting Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
Mary E. Henderson, Lobbyist, Washoe County
Ken West, Chief Deputy Controller, Office of the State Controller
Bob Gagnier, Lobbyist, State of Nevada Employees Association (SNEA)

budget. What this is is clearly the money that they have collected in revenues and the expenditures of those which comes to a net figure over in the right-hand column. For Reno, that figure is \$57,863. What we estimate or what we feel that the Reno Constable in 1996 should be paying the board of county commissioners and the taxpayers of Washoe County is \$6,431.

SENATOR O'DONNELL MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 83.

SENATOR PORTER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR RAGGIO VOTED NO.)

Chairman O'Connell requested the committee vote on Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 3 of the Sixty-eighth Session.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3
OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION:

Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session. (BDR C-85)

SENATOR RAGGIO MOVED TO DO PASS S.J.R. 3 OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION.

SENATOR SHAFFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next, the committee considered Assembly Bill (A.B.) 63.

ASSEMBLY BILL 63:

Provides compensation for retired member of committee for deferred compensation for state employees. (BDR 23-456).

Amendment adopted.
 Bill ordered reprinted, engrossed and to third reading.

Senate Bill No. 166.
 Bill read second time and ordered to third reading.

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 38.
 Bill read third time.
 Roll call on Senate Bill No. 38:
 YEAS—21.
 NAYS—None.

Senate Bill No. 38 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.
 Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Bill No. 83.
 Bill read third time.
 Remarks by Senators O'Connell and Coffin.
 Roll call on Senate Bill No. 83:
 YEAS—17.
 NAYS—Augustine, Coffin, Raggio—3.
 NOT VOTING—Shaffer.

Senate Bill No. 83 having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.
 Bill ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session.

Resolution read third time.
 Remarks by Senators Titus, Schneider, Raggio, O'Donnell and Rawson.
 Senator Raggio requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

SENATOR TITUS:

Unlike last session, I intend to vote "yes" on Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 (of the 68th Session) today. I have not changed my mind about the problems of limiting the legislative session, but I believe the voters deserve an opportunity to speak on this proposed change. I only hope they will carefully consider the implications of such a major change and not simply vote "yes" on something that appears at first glance to be a good move.

Let me take a minute to point out some of the negatives to consider. First, limiting the legislative session at this time flies in the face of the fact that Nevada is the fastest growing state, with the fastest growing senior population, and two of the three fastest growing cities in the nation. The problems and demands being placed on government are increasing not

decreasing. To shorten the time during which elected representatives can address the people's needs, clearly, would be a step in the wrong direction.

Second, limiting the legislature is in effect stifling the voice of the people because the legislature is the most representative body of government with the closest ties to the voters. We are the most accessible to voters, and we can be more readily held accountable than any other body. If the legislature is muzzled, executive officers, the judiciary and, worst of all, unelected, faceless bureaucrats will step in to fill the power vacuum, and policy will be made and followed with little or no public scrutiny and input. This is contrary to the democratic principles upon which this nation was built.

Third, the proponents of shortening the session, who compare Nevada to the other states with limited legislative sessions, conveniently ignore some important facts. Twenty-seven of the 32 states with limited sessions meet annually, not every other year like Nevada. Furthermore, those states with limited sessions which do meet biennially are often called into special session during the interim which is always much more expensive than a regular session. For example, Kentucky which is one of the five biennial states with limited sessions, had one special session in 1996, three in 1995, two in 1994, three in 1993, two in 1991, etc.

Fourth, the sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 (of the 68th Session) claims it will result in meaner, leaner government; i.e., a more efficient and economical legislature. Let me remind you, that the Nevada Legislature, with its current unlimited session, was ranked the second most efficient in the country by Expansion Management Magazine, a conservative, business-oriented publication which compared the 50 state legislatures in 1996 using a number of criteria.

I certainly agree that we should make every effort to save money wherever and whenever possible. That's why last session I opposed a building expansion that now has cost us in excess of \$19 million and includes new offices for committee chairs which are larger and more plush than those found in the U.S. Senate. Can we really justify expenditures like these and then turn around and try to save money by short-changing the time we spend on issues such as education, crime and infrastructure?

Finally, I would challenge the sponsor of this resolution to prove his argument that we can take care of business in 120 days by adjourning on May 19 instead of having yet another record breaking session. Just because there is currently no constitutional limit on the session, there's no reason why, if it is indeed possible and desirable, we can't wrap it up and go home in 120 days. But if we do so, let us make sure that we can face the voters and tell them we really took care of the business they sent us here to do.

SENATOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Mr. President pro Tempore. I stand in opposition to this resolution. I gave it a great deal of thought and I find that this resolution flies in the face of what we should do. I know, in my business as a builder of custom homes, that people often ask me how long it takes to build a home. I can tell them it takes six months or 120 days or a year. Each home is different. This compares to legislative sessions. Mr. President pro Tempore, you have been here for a number of sessions, more than I have, but in the short time I have been here I can tell you that each session is different. Each session has different priorities and each session will probably take a different number of days to complete. We do not know how long it will take to complete a session because of the types of bills that come in.

Today, we are sitting here with new technology on our desks. We do not know what the technology of the future will bring us. Maybe legislators, 50 years from now, will be with their lap top computers and be called from Carson City and hearings will be held instantaneously around the state. Then we really won't have organized sessions of 120 days. Why should we put all these conditions in the Constitution of Nevada and limit future legislators by a time frame. It is the same with the stamp allowance. In 1964, \$60 was a lot of money for stamps, but it doesn't fly today. I think placing a number in the constitution is not what we should do. Thank you.

SENATOR RAGGIO:

Thank you, Mr. President pro Tempore. I had not planned to address this measure today since we have argued pro and con on this for many sessions. It passed this house last session as well as the other house. If it passes this session, it will be placed on the ballot. As the distinguished Minority Leader stated, the public will then have an opportunity to vote it up or down.

For many, many years, those of us who have served in this legislature have been concerned about the length of the session and the cost of the session. This year, the session has been budgeted for \$10 million. We spent \$8 million last session. Surprisingly, to my recollection, the Senate Minority Leader was one of those who voted and supported the appropriation for the remodeling of the building. I do not know what relationship that has as to whether or not we attempt to limit the session. I would take it as an argument in support of this resolution.

There has been concern, among the taxpayers, that we continue to have longer and longer sessions. We have been going into the first part of July. As in 32 other states, this would give a finite date for adjournment. A state like Colorado, for example, is much larger than Nevada, but with its own growth problems, meets those deadlines. As long as there is not a finite date the legislature will take its time upon the issue of adjournment. If 32 other states can do that, then certainly the voters of this state should have the opportunity to determine whether or not that is appropriate for our state.

The measure does provide for a couple of other things which are important. Instead of convening on the third Monday in January, the legislature would, if approved by the voters, convene on the first Monday in February. The limit on the session would then be 120 days from the first Monday in February. That gives some additional time for preparation for the opening of the legislature. It still would allow the legislature to meet during the term that normally is utilized by legislatures in other states, and that is important.

The other aspect of this measure is, as I have indicated in previous discussions about this measure, that it would require the governor to submit to the legislature the executive budget 14 days prior to the start of each regular legislative session. That meets the objection raised continually by, not only the media, the members of this body both now and previously, that we waste the first couple of weeks of session while waiting for submission of the governor's budget. If this measure is approved, we would have the budget 14 days before the session begins. That would in no way shorten the time that governors have to prepare budgets, but everyone, not only the money committees, would have the opportunity to review the budget 14 days before the session starts.

This is a measure which cries out for support. Evidently, enough of us felt that way last session when we approved it. If approved in this session of the legislature, the voters will have the opportunity to express their approval or disapproval. It may be that, if the voters approve this measure, it will obviate the necessity for annual sessions. We don't have any problem in this state in developing a budget bi-annually. As a matter of fact, it is probably the easier and more expeditious thing to do. Most other states, who have this procedure, wish they had the opportunity to develop bi-annual budgets rather than annual budgets. I think it is the best effort we can put forth to streamline and make more cost effective the entire legislative process.

I believe it is inappropriate for us to just take all the time we want. I do not think that is cost effective. I think we must consider the cost of this process. Whether or not the public agrees with us, we will find out if this measure passes. This will at least give them the opportunity to vote on it. To vote against this measure, I believe is to indicate that you do not want the public to express its opinion. Those of us, who have served here for any length of time, are constantly faced with criticism from the media and from our constituents that we take too long to get ordinary business done. That is the other side of the argument. I think the voters should have the opportunity to decide whether or not we should join 32 other states which have fixed dates for their legislatures to complete their business. We are not one of the states which has a full-time legislature such as California, New York and Illinois. We are a state like Texas and Oregon which are both larger than we are and also meet bi-annually. They are able to do their legislative job in that period of time.

As a citizen-type legislature, I don't think the citizens of this state, whether we have growth or not, have sent any mandate that they want to have professional legislators in this state. The longer these sessions creep into July or further, it is going to be more difficult for legislators to come here and serve. We pride ourselves on being citizen-type legislators and you should not expect these people to give up more than 120 days out of their lives and be away longer from their families in order to serve. I would submit that this is a measure we should let the voters have the opportunity to approve or disapprove.

SENATOR O'DONNELL:

Thank you, Mr. President pro Tempore. I rise in support of this measure. I think a lot of us have been asked the same question as to what do we do, why don't we meet every year and why don't we spend more time or are not in session. I have to explain to them all the time that the reason we are not in session is because we have a bi-annual session. We meet every two years for six months or so. Then I ask them if they realize what we do in Carson City. They answer "no, what do you do, do you pass laws?" I tell them that we mostly raise taxes and spend money. That has a very chilling effect on their question because, at that point, they realize that they don't want us up here full time every year. Government is like a cancer. It will grow and grow and grow. Every new assemblyman, every new senator that comes into this body has a new bill for a new ombudsman, new agency, new fire truck, new quail guzzler or something which they need for their district. They need this so that they can go back to their district and explain to their constituents what a wonderful job they did for their people. The part they do not tell them is they did it with their money. I would be very supportive of this measure so that we stop this no-constraints legislature from going on and on. In fact, that was what one of the "buttons" that the governor's office sent over last session said: "It keeps going, and going and going." That is the sentiment. It does keep going and going. If we have a finite date which we can adhere to, then we will do the state's business and get out of here. Those issues which are important will rise to the surface and we will deal with them. Those that are not will go by the wayside. We will get the state's business done and get out of here.

SENATOR RAWSON:

Thank you, Mr. President pro Tempore. I do not want to belabor this. I would like to mention a few things which have not been brought forward in the general discussion on this measure. We are trying to correct a number of things by setting the date and limiting the time. One of the problems which has evolved over time is that our budget has become much more complicated. It is much larger than it has ever been before. It isn't an issue of having enough time to go through the budget, it's an issue of being able to prepare the budget for the legislative session. The governor and his staff try to the best of their ability to meet the present deadlines. We receive a budget that the governor is able to speak about in his State of the State address, but it is not complete. The budget is still being changed and modified. Reports are being given to us regularly. We have been in session for 51 days and I would like you to consider some of the major, major issues of legislation which face us in this session that have not as yet been delivered to the legislature. We have a welfare plan which is going to cost us hundreds of millions of dollars yet none of us can look at it. We have a technology plan which has not yet been written. We are talking a commitment of over \$100 million for that plan of which nearly half will be spent in this biennium. We have a major health care reform package which will be the most extensive health plan package to ever hit the state and it has not been drafted or presented to either house of the legislature. We have been here 51 days, nine days short of what is listed in our constitution as the time we should be going home and we have not even considered these issues as a legislature. That may sound as if I am criticizing the governor. That is not what this is about. I am trying to say that the governor needs more time to put his budget in shape to be able to present it to a legislature which can then expeditiously deal with it. We have gone through the budget and are now working in subcommittees. We are ready to close our budgets, but we do not have all of them presented to us.

One of the pet peeves I used to have had to do with the legislators who used to serve here and said "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Well, it is broke. We are wasting time when we have to go through budgets and we do not have the details. We are wasting time when we have to deal with issues such as health care at \$500 million a year and we do not have that plan in our hands. There does not need to be blame placed on anyone. We need to just fix it. This measure is a good way to start the approach of really fixing it. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHNEIDER:

Thank you, Mr. President pro Tempore for the opportunity to speak again. Maybe I did not clearly express myself the first time I spoke. I think anyone from Clark County, if told that they could go home on June 1 or a specific date, everyone would like that. I know where my family is going to be on July 1. They are going to be in Coronado whether I am there or not. I don't believe that is the issue here. I think the issue here is management. That is what I am trying to say is that this body can perform its work. The Senator who spoke before brought up the problem. It is a management problem. I don't believe that you are going to correct management problems by setting a date. If that were true, General Motors would set a date whereby they could build a car in six hours. They can't do it. I think by exercising proper management here, we can handle these problems. Also, when you put a time of 120 days in the constitution, even with the new technology of the future, they will use the 120 days even if they can complete it in 90 days. That is why I oppose this measure.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session:

YEAS—20.

NAYS—Schneider.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session, having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 68th Session.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Senator James.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 68th Session:

YEAS—21.

NAYS—None.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 68th Session having received a constitutional majority, Mr. President pro Tempore declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Assembly.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Mathews, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Jason Lopez.

On request of Senator McGinness, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to Ray Brown, Terri Miller, Renee Bell, Becki Mouser, Marie Mouser, Dakota Mouser, Nelson Tucker, Elva Tucker, Reid Allen, Jr., Howard Naylor, Joan Booth and Kathy Allen.

**MINUTES OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,
PROCEDURES, AND ETHICS**

**Sixty-ninth Session
July 2, 1997**

The Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics, was called to order at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, July 2, 1997. Chair Chris Giunchigliani presided on the Assembly Floor of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. There was no Agenda. There was no Guest List.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Chris Giunchigliani, Chair
Mr. Dario Herrera, Vice Chairman
Ms. Merle Berman
Mr. Jack Close
Mr. Joseph Dini, Jr.
Mrs. Joan Lambert
Mr. John Marvel
Mr. Richard Perkins

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Robert (Bob) Price

The Elections, Procedures, and Ethics Committee met at the back bar of the Assembly Floor with Madam Chair presiding.

SENATE BILL 214 - Makes various changes to provisions regarding commission on ethics.

ASSEMBLYMAN CLOSE MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 214.

ASSEMBLYMAN HERRERA SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. ASSEMBLYMEN PRICE AND MARVEL WERE ABSENT FROM THE VOTE.

SENATE BILL 30 - Increases amount of official stationery and business cards that legislators are entitled to receive at expense of legislative fund.

ASSEMBLYMAN HERRERA MOVED TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE S.B. 30.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LAMBERT SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. ASSEMBLYMEN PRICE AND MARVEL WERE ABSENT FROM THE VOTE.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 68TH SESSION

Proposes to amend Nevada constitution to limit length of legislative session and to require submittal of proposed executive budget to legislature before commencement of legislative session.

ASSEMBLYMAN CLOSE MOVED TO DO ADOPT S.J.R.3 OF THE 68TH SESSION.

ASSEMBLYMAN PERKINS SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLYWOMEN GIUNCHIGLIANI, LAMBERT AND BERMAN VOTED AGAINST THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED 5-3, ASSEMBLYMAN PRICE WAS ABSENT FROM THE VOTE.

JULY 3, 1997

2197

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics, to which was referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

CHRISTINA R. GIUNCHIGLIANI, *Chairman*

GENERAL FILE AND THIRD READING

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session.

Resolution read third time.

Remarks by Assemblyman Herrera.

Roll call on Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session:

YEAS—37.

NAYS—Bache, Freeman, Giunchigliani, Lambert—4.

Excused—Hettrick.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session having received a constitutional majority, Mr. Speaker declared it passed.

Resolution ordered transmitted to the Senate.

Assemblyman Anderson moved that the Assembly recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Motion carried.

Assembly in recess at 5:50 p.m.

ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

At 6:24 p.m.

Mr. Speaker presiding.

Quorum present.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics, to which were referred Senate Concurrent Resolutions Nos. 10, 21, 53, 60, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Be adopted.

CHRISTINA R. GIUNCHIGLIANI, *Chairman*

Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics, to which was referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 68th Session, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

CHRISTINA R. GIUNCHIGLIANI, *Chairman*

Mr. Speaker:

Your Concurrent Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 229, has had the same under consideration, and begs leave to report the same back with the recommendation: Do pass.

MORSE ARBERRY, JR., *Chairman*

mentally ill residents of this state with the objective of helping mentally ill residents to lead more productive lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the study include, without limitation, an examination, review and evaluation of:

1. The statutes of this state and other states, including, without limitation, the provisions of chapter 433A of NRS, that establish criteria for determining whether a person is mentally ill for the purposes of evaluation, treatment and outpatient civil commitment;

2. The types and rates of success of the various programs of outpatient civil commitment for mentally ill residents in other states;

3. The feasibility of adopting a program of outpatient civil commitment for mentally ill residents in this state;

4. The development of programs of training for judges, magistrates and other professionals involved in the administration of such a program; and

5. The expected benefits of such a program to the public and to the mentally ill residents who are committed to the program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the committee and a majority of the members of the Senate appointed to the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission submit a report of the results of the study and any recommended legislation to the 70th session of the Nevada Legislature.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session—Senators Raggio, O’Connell, Augustine, Jacobsen, James, Lowden, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O’Donnell, Porter, Regan, Townsend and Washington

FILE NUMBER 147

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to commence each regular session of the legislature in February, to limit the length of each regular session and to require the governor to submit a proposed executive budget before the commencement of each regular session.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That section 2 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall commence on the [3rd] 1st Monday of [January next ensuing] *February following* the election of members of the Assembly, unless the Governor of the State shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation.

2. *The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later than midnight Pacific standard time 120 calendar days following its commencement. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard time on the 120th calendar day is void, unless the legislative action is conducted during a special session convened by the Governor.*

3. *The Governor shall submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each regular session.*

And be it further

RESOLVED, That section 12 of article 17 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec: 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on the second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and the second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session of the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Seven; and the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter biennially . [, commencing on the first Monday of January].

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 of the 68th Session—Senators James, Augustine, Jacobsen, Lee, Lowden, Mathews, McGinness, Neal, O’Connell, Porter, Raggio, Regan, Shaffer, Townsend and Washington

FILE NUMBER 148

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the constitution of the State of Nevada to authorize the legislature to provide for the abatement of taxes on property used in a manner that conserves water.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That section 1 of article 10 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. 1. The legislature shall provide by law for a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation, and shall prescribe such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, real, personal and possessory, except mines and mining claims, which shall be assessed and taxed only as provided in section 5 of this article.

2. Shares of stock, bonds, mortgages, notes, bank deposits, book accounts and credits, and securities and choses in action of like character are deemed to represent interest in property already assessed and taxed, either in Nevada or elsewhere, and shall be exempt.

3. The legislature may constitute agricultural and open-space real property having a greater value for another use than that for which it is being used, as a separate class for taxation purposes and may provide a separate uniform plan for appraisal and valuation of such property for assessment purposes. If such plan is provided, the legislature shall also provide for retroactive assessment for a period of not less than 7 years when agricultural and open-space real property is converted to a higher use conforming to the use for which other nearby property is used.

4. Personal property which is moving in interstate commerce through or over the territory of the State of Nevada, or which was consigned to a warehouse, public or private, within the State of Nevada from outside the

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

BALLOT QUESTION TEXT AND VOTES FROM THE
1998 GENERAL ELECTION

State of Nevada Ballot Questions 1998



**A Compilation of Ballot Questions Which Will Appear
on the November 3, 1998, General Election Ballot**

Issued by
Dean Heller
Secretary of State

QUESTION NO. 5

Amendment to the Nevada Constitution

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 68th Session

CONDENSATION (ballot question)

Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to limit the length of Nevada's regular legislative sessions to not more than 120 calendar days and require the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature at least 14 days before the start of each regular session?

Yes ----- 283,413
No ----- 117,466

EXPLANATION

Before 1960, regular legislative sessions in Nevada were conducted in odd-numbered years (biennial) and were limited by the Nevada Constitution to no more than 60 calendar days. However, from 1909 through 1959, the Legislature required additional time each session to complete its business. Typically, the "clock was covered" on the 60th day so that the session could be extended a few extra days.

As the result of constitutional amendments in 1958 and 1960, the Legislature continues to meet in regular session in odd-numbered years, but there currently is no limit on the length of a session. Members of the Legislature are paid a salary only for the first 60 days of session, regardless of its length. The last five regular sessions all exceeded 160 calendar days: 1989, 167 days; 1991, 161 days; 1993, 166 days; 1995, 169 days; and 1997, 169 days.

This proposed amendment to the Nevada Constitution would limit future regular sessions to not more than 120 calendar days, starting with the 1999 session. Under this proposal, regular sessions remain biennial, but would start on the first Monday of February of each odd-numbered year instead of on the third Monday of January. Legislators would continue to receive salary for only the first 60 days of session.

Additionally, the proposal would specifically make void any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard time on the 120th calendar day. Finally, the proposal requires the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature at least 14 calendar days before the start of each regular session. Under current practice, the budget is not received by the Legislature until after the start of the session.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE

The proposed amendment to the Nevada Constitution would require the Legislature to operate more efficiently and enact necessary legislation in a timely manner. In addition, by limiting future regular sessions to no more than 120 calendar days, the proposal would save the taxpayers several million dollars each session. Limited sessions would compel the Legislature to streamline its procedures. For example, the power of committee chairmen to hold legislation for processing until the end of the session may be restricted by rules requiring that bills be heard and acted upon within a certain time frame. Finally, by requiring the executive budget to be submitted before the start of session, the proposal will allow the Legislature to begin its work on the budget earlier.

Most other states conduct legislative sessions that are limited in length. Of the six other states that conduct biennial sessions (like Nevada), four are limited to sessions that are less than the proposed 120 days. A majority of the state legislatures that meet in annual, limited session also conduct their business in less than 120 days.

Because the proposed amendment will place the limitation on the length of session in the Nevada Constitution, the Legislature will not be able to alter the 120-day limit without voter approval of another constitutional amendment.

A "Yes" vote would limit the length of Nevada's regular legislative sessions to not more than 120 calendar days and require the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature at least 14 days before the start of each regular session.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE

Nevada has been the fastest growing state in the nation for many years. The complexity of issues facing a rapidly growing state requires the Legislature to take whatever time is required to accomplish its business. Further, nothing prevents the Legislature from revising its procedures and adjourning within 120 days.

If the Legislature is not able to complete its business within the specified 120 days, the Governor may be required to call a special session of the Legislature at a substantial cost to the taxpayers. A limited session also may decrease the amount of public participation as bills are processed more rapidly and citizens may not receive sufficient notice to attend hearings. Finally, the people of the state should not force the Legislature to conduct its business in a hurried manner or leave important matters unfinished for lack of time.

A "No" vote would retain the existing system under which there is no limit on the length of a regular legislative session, and the Nevada Constitution would not require the Governor to submit the proposed executive budget prior to the start of session.

FISCAL NOTE

Financial Impact - No. The proposal to amend the Nevada Constitution would limit the length of Nevada's regular legislative sessions to not more than 120 calendar days. Approval of this proposal would have no adverse fiscal effect.

FULL TEXT OF THE MEASURE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada constitution to commence each regular session of the legislature in February, to limit the length of each regular session and to require the governor to submit a proposed executive budget before the commencement of each regular session.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That section 2 of article 4 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 1. The sessions of the Legislature shall be biennial, and shall commence on the [3rd] 1st Monday of [January next ensuing] *February following* the election of members of the Assembly, unless the Governor of the State shall, in the interim, convene the Legislature by proclamation.

2. *The Legislature shall adjourn sine die each regular session not later than midnight Pacific standard time 120 calendar days following its commencement. Any legislative action taken after midnight Pacific standard time on the 120th calendar day is void, unless the legislative action is conducted during a special session convened by the Governor.*

3. *The Governor shall submit the proposed executive budget to the Legislature not later than 14 calendar days before the commencement of each regular session.*

And be it further

RESOLVED, That section 12 of article 17 of the constitution of the State of Nevada be amended to read as follows:

Sec: 12. The first regular session of the Legislature shall commence on the second Monday of December A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Four, and the second regular session of the same shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Six; and the third regular session of the Legislature shall be the first of the biennial sessions, and shall commence on the first Monday of January A.D. Eighteen hundred and Sixty Seven; and the regular sessions of the Legislature shall be held thereafter biennially . [, commencing on the first Monday of January.]