

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5024

By Representative Pottorff

12-12

A PROPOSITION to amend section 8 of article 2 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, relating to the duration of sessions of the legislature.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Section 8 of article 2 of the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 8. Organization and sessions. The legislature shall meet in regular session annually commencing on the second Monday in January, and all sessions shall be held at the state capital. The duration of ~~each regular sessions held in even-numbered years~~ *session* shall not exceed ~~ninety eighty-eight~~ *ninety eighty-eight* calendar days. ~~Each such sessions~~ *session* may be extended beyond ~~ninety eighty-eight~~ *ninety eighty-eight* calendar days by an affirmative vote of ~~two-thirds of the~~ *a majority of all members elected (or appointed) and qualified to each house, except that no regular session can be extended by more than two calendar days.* Bills and concurrent resolutions under consideration by the legislature upon adjournment of a regular session held in an odd-numbered year may be considered at the next succeeding regular session held in an even-numbered year, as if there had been no such adjournment.

The legislature shall be organized concurrently with the terms of representatives except that the senate shall remain organized during the terms of senators. The president of the senate shall preside over the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives shall preside over the house of representatives. A majority of the members then elected (or appointed) and qualified of the house of representatives or the senate shall constitute a quorum of that house. Neither house, without the consent of the other, shall adjourn for more than two days, Sundays excepted. Each house shall elect its

1 presiding officer and determine the rules of its proceedings, except
2 that the two houses may adopt joint rules on certain matters and
3 provide for the manner of change thereof. Each house shall provide
4 for the expulsion or censure of members in appropriate cases. Each
5 house shall be the judge of elections, returns and qualifications of
6 its own members.”

7 Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with
8 the amendment as a whole:

9 “*Explanatory statement.* The purpose of this amendment is to limit
10 the duration of the annual regular sessions of the Kansas legis-
11 lature. It imposes a limit of eighty-eight calendar days for each
12 regular session. It removes the existing limit of ninety calendar
13 days which applies only to regular sessions held in even-num-
14 bered years and the existing provision allowing extension of such
15 sessions beyond ninety calendar days by a vote of two-thirds of
16 the members of each house. This amendment would permit the
17 legislature to extend the regular session beyond the eighty-eighth
18 calendar day by the vote of a majority vote of all members of
19 each house. Such extension could not be for more than two cal-
20 endar days.

21 “A vote for this proposition would limit the duration of each regular
22 session of the Kansas legislature to eighty-eight calendar days.
23 Each such session could be extended by the legislature for not
24 to exceed two calendar days by a majority vote of all members
25 of each house.

26 “A vote against this proposition would continue in effect the current
27 provision which limits only the regular sessions held in even-
28 numbered years to ninety calendar days and the existing provi-
29 sion allowing extension of such sessions beyond ninety calendar
30 days by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house.”

31 Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members
32 elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, and
33 two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the
34 Senate shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays.
35 The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as pro-
36 vided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted
37 to the electors of the state at the general election in November in the
38 year 2004 unless a special election is called at a sooner date by concurrent
39 resolution of the legislature, in which case it shall be submitted to the
40 electors of the state at the special election.

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