

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE RULE 508 AND JOINT RULE 203

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. House Rule 508 is amended:

508. REPORTING OF MEASURES. Except for an appropriations bill, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota, or a resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Council, no House bill or resolution may be held in a committee for more than thirty legislative days after it is referred to the committee, unless an extension of time is granted by the House. Except for a resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Council or proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota, all House bills and resolutions must be reported back to the House no later than the thirty-first legislative day. A resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Council or proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota must be reported back to the House no later than the thirty-seventh legislative day. A bill or resolution not reported back as required by this rule must automatically be placed on the calendar without recommendation. Senate bills and resolutions must be reported back to the House by the fifty-fifth legislative day.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Joint Rule 203 is amended:

203. LIMITATION ON MESSAGING OF MEASURES - CROSSOVER DAYS.

1. A bill that has passed one house may not be sent to the other house for concurrence after the thirty-third legislative day, except a bill approved for introduction after the deadline for introduction of bills.
2. A resolution that has passed one house may not be sent to the other house for concurrence after the fortieth legislative day, except a resolution approved for introduction after the deadline for introduction of that type of resolution.

NOTE: This proposed "rules amendment" is presented without any proposed change in order to provide a vehicle for discussion purposes. This is in response to a suggestion that it may be helpful to examine the deadlines for getting resolutions out of the Constitutional Revision Committee because deadlines were established when that committee was a joint committee of the House and Senate.

Until 1983, the deadline for introducing resolutions proposing constitutional amendments was the 33rd legislative day and the deadline for reporting these resolutions out of committee was the 44th legislative day. In 1983, constitutional amendments were separated into two categories--amendments to the United States Constitution and amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota; and the deadline for introducing resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution was established as the 18th legislative day. In 1987, the deadline for introducing resolutions proposing amendments to the United States Constitution was established as the 34th legislative day; and in 1997 the deadline was established as the 31st legislative day. In 1997 the deadline for reporting resolutions proposing amendments to the United States Constitution and the state constitution was established as the 37th legislative day. In 2001, the deadlines for introducing constitutional amendments were reversed--the deadline for introducing amendments to the state constitution was established as the 31st legislative day and the deadline for introducing amendments to the United States Constitution was established as the 18th legislative day.

A timeline showing the various deadlines established in the rules is attached.