

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3049**

Introduced by

Representatives S. Kelsh, Kretschmar

1 A concurrent resolution for the amendment of sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the Constitution  
2 of North Dakota, relating to length of biennial legislative sessions.

3 **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

4 This amendment provides that the legislative assembly may meet for up to one hundred days  
5 during a biennium.

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**  
7 **SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

8 That the following proposed amendment to sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the  
9 Constitution of North Dakota is agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of  
10 North Dakota at the general election to be held in 2012, in accordance with section 16 of  
11 article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota.

12 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 7 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **Section 7.** The terms of members of the legislative assembly begin on the first day of  
15 December following their election.

16 The legislative assembly shall meet at the seat of government in the month of December  
17 following the election of the members thereof for organizational and orientation purposes as  
18 provided by law and shall thereafter recess until twelve noon on the first Tuesday after the third  
19 day in January or at such other time as may be prescribed by law but not later than the eleventh  
20 day of January.

21 No regular session of the legislative assembly may exceed ~~eightyone hundred~~ natural days  
22 during the biennium. The organizational meeting of the legislative assembly may not be counted  
23 as part of those ~~eightyone hundred~~ natural days, nor may days spent in session at the call of  
24 the governor or while engaged in impeachment proceedings, be counted. Days spent in regular  
25 session need not be consecutive, and the legislative assembly may authorize its committees to

1 meet at any time during the biennium. As used in this section, a "natural day" means a period of  
2 twenty-four consecutive hours.

3 Neither house may recess nor adjourn for more than three days without consent of the  
4 other house.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 13 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **Section 13.** Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and a recorded vote on any  
8 question shall be taken at the request of one-sixth of those members present. No bill may  
9 become law except by a recorded vote of a majority of the members elected to each house, and  
10 the lieutenant governor is considered a member-elect of the senate when the lieutenant  
11 governor votes.

12 No law may be enacted except by a bill passed by both houses, and no bill may be  
13 amended on its passage through either house in a manner which changes its general subject  
14 matter. No bill may embrace more than one subject, which must be expressed in its title; but a  
15 law violating this provision is invalid only to the extent the subject is not so expressed.

16 Every bill must be read on two separate natural days, and the readings may be by title only  
17 unless a reading at length is demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

18 No bill may be amended, extended, or incorporated in any other bill by reference to its title  
19 only, except in the case of definitions and procedural provisions.

20 The presiding officer of each house shall sign all bills passed and resolutions adopted by  
21 the legislative assembly, and the fact of signing shall be entered at once in the journal.

22 Every law, except as otherwise provided in this section, enacted by the legislative assembly  
23 during its eightyone hundred natural meeting days takes effect on August first after its filing with  
24 the secretary of state, or if filed on or after August first and before January first of the following  
25 year ninety days after its filing, or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless, by a vote  
26 of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares it an  
27 emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. Every appropriation measure for  
28 support and maintenance of state departments and institutions and every tax measure that  
29 changes tax rates enacted by the legislative assembly take effect on July first after its filing with  
30 the secretary of state or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless, by a vote of  
31 two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares it an

1 emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. An emergency measure takes  
2 effect upon its filing with the secretary of state or on a date specified in the measure. Every law  
3 enacted by a special session of the legislative assembly takes effect on a date specified in the  
4 Act.

5 The legislative assembly shall enact all laws necessary to carry into effect the provisions of  
6 this constitution. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no local or special laws may  
7 be enacted, nor may the legislative assembly indirectly enact special or local laws by the partial  
8 repeal of a general law but laws repealing local or special laws may be enacted.