

Introduced by

Representatives Kretschmar, Kroeber

1 A concurrent resolution for the amendment of sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the Constitution  
2 of North Dakota, relating to sessions of the legislative assembly; and to provide an effective  
3 date.

4 **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

5 This measure would limit the legislative assembly to a regular session not to exceed sixty days  
6 in each odd-numbered year and twenty-five days in each even-numbered year. The  
7 amendment would become effective January 1, 2013.

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

10 That the following proposed amendments to sections 7 and 13 of article IV of the  
11 Constitution of North Dakota are agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of  
12 North Dakota at the general election to be held in 2008, in accordance with section 16 of  
13 article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota.

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

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

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

23 No regular ~~session~~ sessions of the legislative assembly may exceed ~~eighty~~ eighty-five  
24 natural days during the biennium. The organizational meeting of the legislative assembly may  
25 not be counted as part of those ~~eighty~~ eighty-five natural days, nor may days spent in session

1 at the call of the governor or while engaged in impeachment proceedings, be counted. Days  
2 spent in regular session need not be consecutive, and the legislative assembly may authorize  
3 its committees to meet at any time during the biennium. As used in this section, a "natural day"  
4 means a period of twenty-four consecutive hours.

5 In each odd-numbered year, the legislative assembly may meet for not more than sixty  
6 days, and in each even-numbered year, the legislative assembly may meet for not more than  
7 twenty-five days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 Every law, except as otherwise provided in this section, enacted by the legislative  
28 assembly during its ~~eighty~~ eighty-five natural meeting days takes effect on August first after its  
29 filing with the secretary of state, or if filed on or after August first and before January first of the  
30 following year ninety days after its filing, or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless,  
31 by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares

1 it an emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. Every appropriation measure  
2 for support and maintenance of state departments and institutions and every tax measure that  
3 changes tax rates enacted by the legislative assembly take effect on July first after its filing with  
4 the secretary of state or on a subsequent date if specified in the law unless, by a vote of  
5 two-thirds of the members elected to each house, the legislative assembly declares it an  
6 emergency measure and includes the declaration in the Act. An emergency measure takes  
7 effect upon its filing with the secretary of state or on a date specified in the measure. Every law  
8 enacted by a special session of the legislative assembly takes effect on a date specified in the  
9 Act.

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

14           **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** If approved by the voters, this measure becomes  
15 effective on January 1, 2013.