

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-0847.01 Nicole Myers x4326

HCR17-1001

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lundeen, Neville P., Lawrence, Everett, Becker J., Buck, Catlin, Covarrubias, Humphrey, Landgraf, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, McKean, Navarro, Nordberg, Ransom, Saine, Sias, Thurlow, Van Winkle, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Wist

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

Senate Committees

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17-1001

101 **SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF**
102 **COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION**
103 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE**
104 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
105 **DECREASING THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF**
106 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY**
107 **CALENDAR DAYS TO NINETY CALENDAR DAYS IN**
108 **EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND TO SIXTY CALENDAR DAYS IN**
109 **ODD-NUMBERED YEARS, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF BILLS AND**
110 **RESOLUTIONS THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY**
111 **INTRODUCE DURING A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL**
112 **ASSEMBLY, ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS, AND**
113 **ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Resolution Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

The resolution makes the following changes regarding the operations of the general assembly:

- ! Decreases the maximum length of regular sessions of the general assembly from 120 calendar days to 90 calendar days in even-numbered years and 60 calendar days in odd-numbered years;
- ! Requires a biennial budget session to be held in every even-numbered year;
- ! Limits the number of bills that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 bills in any regular session of the general assembly, excluding bills for appropriations and bills recommended by legislative committees;
- ! Limits the number of resolutions that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 resolutions in any regular session of the general assembly. This includes resolutions, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions, but excludes resolutions on the question of adjournment or relating solely to the transaction of business between the 2 houses.
- ! Allows both houses of the general assembly to create a restrictive process to authorize an exemption from the specified bill and resolution limits;
- ! Beginning with the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2020, implements a biennial state budget cycle and specifies how the general assembly will apply existing constitutional requirements to the biennial budget process; and
- ! Establishes the process for consideration of a general appropriation bill.

1 WHEREAS, The clauses appearing before section 1 of this
2 measure express the intent of the general assembly in adopting the

1 measure and are intended to be included as part of the text of the measure
2 for purposes of publication pursuant to section 1-40-124, Colorado
3 Revised Statutes, and the ballot information booklet pursuant to section
4 1 (7.5) of article V of the state constitution and section 1-40-124.5,
5 Colorado Revised Statutes; and

6 WHEREAS, Gallup polling data shows that a majority of
7 Americans think the government does too much; and

8 WHEREAS, More Americans think there are too many regulations
9 than think there are too few or just the right amount of regulations; and

10 WHEREAS, Only roughly 58% of bills offered each year by the
11 Colorado General Assembly are passed in both chambers and signed into
12 law by the governor, causing the taxpayers of Colorado to spend roughly
13 \$40,000 per bill on bills that don't pass; and

14 WHEREAS, A reduction in the number of bills allotted to each
15 legislator will cause the legislative caucus to work together on putting
16 forth the bills each year that are most important to the financial success
17 and safety of Coloradans; now, therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first*
19 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

20 **SECTION 1.** At the election held on November 6, 2018, the
21 secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the
22 ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state
23 constitution:

24 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 7 of
25 article V as follows:

26 **Section 7. General assembly - shall meet when - term of**
27 **members - committees.** The general assembly shall meet in regular

1 session at 10 a.m. no later than the second Wednesday of January of each
2 year. The general assembly shall meet at other times when convened in
3 special session by the governor pursuant to section 9 of article IV of this
4 constitution or by written request by two-thirds of the members of each
5 house to the presiding officer of each house to consider only those
6 subjects specified in such request. The term of service of the members of
7 the general assembly shall begin on the convening of the first regular
8 session of the general assembly next after their election. The committees
9 of the general assembly, unless otherwise provided by the general
10 assembly, shall expire on the convening of the first regular session after
11 a general election. Regular sessions of the general assembly HELD IN
12 EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS SHALL BE THE BIENNIAL BUDGET SESSION AND
13 shall not exceed ~~one hundred twenty~~ NINETY CONSECUTIVE calendar days.
14 REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN ODD-NUMBERED
15 YEARS SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS.

16 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 17 of
17 article V as follows:

18 **Section 17. No law passed but by bill - amendments -**
19 **resolutions - limitations.** (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and
20 no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house
21 as to change its original purpose.

22 (2) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE
23 MORE THAN TWO BILLS IN A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY, EXCLUDING BILLS FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND BILLS
25 RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEES THAT ARE CREATED BY THE GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY AND THAT MEET DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, DURING
27 THE INTERIM, OR DURING BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND THE

1 INTERIM. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (2),
2 EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH A RESTRICTIVE
3 PROCESS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY OBTAIN
4 PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO BILLS DURING ANY REGULAR
5 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)
6 SHALL LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BILLS ORIGINATING IN THE OTHER HOUSE
7 THAT A LEGISLATOR MAY INTRODUCE IN THE SECOND HOUSE.

8 (3) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE
9 MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS, JOINT
10 RESOLUTIONS, AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, IN A REGULAR SESSION OF
11 ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
12 SUBSECTION (3), EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH
13 A RESTRICTIVE PROCESS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
14 MAY OBTAIN PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS
15 DURING A REGULAR SESSION OF ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE LIMITATION
16 ON THE NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY MAY INTRODUCE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) DOES NOT
18 APPLY, IN ANY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO A RESOLUTION ON
19 THE QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT OR A RESOLUTION RELATING SOLELY TO
20 THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.

21 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 32 of
22 article V as follows:

23 **Section 32. Appropriation bills - biennial budget cycle.**

24 (1) (a) BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2020,
25 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL FOLLOW A BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET
26 CYCLE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL INTRODUCE AND CONSIDER A
27 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL AND ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

1 BILLS IN THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2 (b) THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE THE PROCESS USED FOR PURPOSES
3 OF CONSIDERING A GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL:

4 (I) THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD HEARINGS AS
5 REQUIRED TO REVIEW THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND THE BUDGET
6 REQUESTS OF EACH STATE AGENCY AND INSTITUTION, INCLUDING
7 PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND SHALL
8 PREPARE FOR INTRODUCTION A GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL;

9 (II) AFTER INTRODUCTION OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL,
10 THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL DIVIDE THE GENERAL
11 APPROPRIATION BILL INTO CATEGORIES RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER
12 EXPERTISE OF EACH COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE IN EACH HOUSE OF THE
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND SUCH PORTIONS OF THE GENERAL
14 APPROPRIATION BILL SHALL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEES OF
15 REFERENCE SPECIFIED BY THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR
16 CONSIDERATION. EACH COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE SHALL CONSIDER
17 THOSE PORTIONS OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL RELATED TO THE
18 SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE. THE
19 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE MAY ALTER THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE
20 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL; EXCEPT THAT THE COMMITTEES OF
21 REFERENCE SHALL NOT INCREASE TOTAL FUNDING PROVIDED FOR ANY
22 PARTICULAR STATE AGENCY OR INSTITUTION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE
23 REVIEW, THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE SHALL MOVE THEIR PORTIONS OF
24 THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE,
25 OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE.

26 (III) THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
27 COMMITTEE, SHALL CONSIDER THE ENTIRE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL

1 AFTER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE AND, UPON
2 COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, SHALL ACT ON THE BILL AS REQUIRED BY
3 RULE; AND

4 (IV) IN CASE OF ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES UPON
5 THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL, THE TWO COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY
6 THE HOUSES SHALL BE JOINTLY COMPOSED OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF
7 MEMBERS SERVING ON THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS NOT
8 SERVING ON THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE.

9 (c) THE REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE X OF
10 THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL APPLY TO EACH FISCAL YEAR ON THE BIENNIAL
11 STATE BUDGET CYCLE.

12 (d) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT, AMEND, OR REPEAL
13 ANY LAWS OR RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
14 SUBSECTION (1).

15 (2) The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but
16 appropriations for the expense of the executive, legislative and judicial
17 departments of the state, state institutions, interest on the public debt and
18 for public schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate
19 bills, each embracing but one subject.

20 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote
21 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall
22 there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning
23 modifications to the operations of the general assembly, and, in
24 connection therewith, decreasing the maximum length of regular sessions
25 of the general assembly from one hundred twenty calendar days to ninety
26 calendar days in even-numbered years and to sixty calendar days in
27 odd-numbered years, limiting the number of bills and resolutions that a

1 member of the general assembly may introduce during a regular session
2 of the general assembly, establishing a biennial budget process, and
3 establishing the process for consideration of the general appropriation
4 bill?"

5 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123,
6 Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the
7 ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become part of the
8 state constitution.