

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R19-1024.01 Nicole Myers x4326

SCR19-002

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19-002

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 or bold & italic numbers 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, 2022, 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 show 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, Based on statistics prepared by the office of
11 legislative legal services, roughly 60% of bills offered each year by the
12 Colorado general assembly are passed in both chambers and signed into
13 law by the governor, causing the taxpayers of Colorado to spend roughly
14 \$41,000 per bill, based on estimates prepared by the national conference
15 of state legislatures, on bills that don't pass; and

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

20 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*
21 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
22 *concurring herein:*

23 **SECTION 1.** At the election held on November 3, 2020, the
24 secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the
25 ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state
26 constitution:

27 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 7 of

1 article V as follows:

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

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

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

25 (2) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE
26 MORE THAN TWO BILLS IN A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY, EXCLUDING BILLS FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND BILLS

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

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

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

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

27 (1) (a) BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2022,

1 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL FOLLOW A BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET
2 CYCLE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL INTRODUCE AND CONSIDER A
3 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL AND ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
4 BILLS IN THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

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

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

1 OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE.

2 (III) THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
3 COMMITTEE, SHALL CONSIDER THE ENTIRE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL
4 AFTER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE AND, UPON
5 COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, SHALL ACT ON THE BILL AS REQUIRED BY
6 RULE; AND

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

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

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

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

23 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote
24 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall
25 there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning
26 modifications to the operations of the general assembly, and, in
27 connection therewith, decreasing the maximum length of regular sessions

1 of the general assembly from one hundred twenty calendar days to ninety
2 calendar days in even-numbered years and to sixty calendar days in
3 odd-numbered years, limiting the number of bills and resolutions that a
4 member of the general assembly may introduce during a regular session
5 of the general assembly, establishing a biennial budget process, and
6 establishing the process for consideration of the general appropriation
7 bill?"

8 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123,
9 Colorado Revised Statutes, if at least fifty-five percent of the electors
10 voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become
11 part of the state constitution.