

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2289

*As Reported By House Committee on:
State Government*

Title: An act relating to the legislature and terms of state officials and members of the legislature.

Brief Description: Delaying the start of odd-year legislative sessions.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Ebersole, Wineberry, R. Meyers, Winsley, D. Sommers, R. King and Anderson.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
State Government, January 29, 1992, DPS.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT**

Majority Report: *The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 7 members: Representatives Anderson, Chair; Pruitt, Vice Chair; Chandler; R. Fisher; Moyer; O'Brien; and Sheldon.

Minority Report: *Without recommendation.* Signed by 2 members: Representatives McLean, Ranking Minority Member; and Bowman, Assistant Ranking Minority Member.

Staff: Kenneth Hirst (786-7105).

Background: Regular sessions of the Legislature are held annually starting on the second Monday of January. During even-numbered years regular sessions are 60 days in length, while in odd-numbered years regular sessions are 105 days.

During its first session following the election of state officers, the Legislature meets to canvass the votes for elected officers as provided in the state's constitution. The state officers include the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public lands, and insurance commissioner. Their terms of office are for four years and start on the Wednesday after the second Monday of January following the election.

Each house also meets to judge the election, returns, and qualifications of its newly elected members, as provided for in the constitution.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Regular sessions of the Legislature held in odd-numbered years commence on the second Monday of February. On the second Monday of January of each odd-numbered year, the Legislature is required to meet to: canvass the votes for elected state officers; judge the election, returns, and qualifications of its members; and administer the oath of office to state officers and members of the Legislature. The Legislature may elect its officers and adopt rules of procedure at this meeting, but it may not pass legislation unless it is convened in regular or special session as provided for in the state's constitution.

The terms of the elected officers of the legislative and executive branches of state government begin on the second Monday of January following their election.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The intent section is added by the substitute bill.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: All too often, the Legislature spins its wheels while it develops a budget and often has to go into special session to do that. This bill will help the Legislature be more efficient.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: George Tyler (in favor).