

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2701

As Passed House:
February 16, 2010

Title: An act relating to the time of commencement of regular legislative sessions.

Brief Description: Clarifying the time of commencement of regular legislative sessions.

Sponsors: Representative Taylor.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 1/22/10, 2/2/10 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/16/10, 97-1.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Codifying that the regular sessions of the Legislature commences annually at noon.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Appleton, Vice Chair; Armstrong, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Hurst, Miloscia and Taylor.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Flannigan.

Staff: Tracey O'Brien (786-7196).

Background:

Article II, Section 12 of the Washington Constitution specifies that a regular session of the Legislature must be convened each year. The specific day and time must be designated by the Legislature in statute. During an odd-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than 105 consecutive days. During an even-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than 60 consecutive days.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Legislature has designated the second Monday of January to be the first day of the annual regular session.

Summary of Bill:

The current statute is updated to codify a noon start time for the first day of the annual regular session.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) A noon start time is consistent with current practice. This bill not only clarifies the start time of a legislative session, but also the end time.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Taylor, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.