

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2701

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
State Government & Tribal Affairs

**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].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

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

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### 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.

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*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.

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**Summary of Bill:**

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

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**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.