
SENATE BILL 5196

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Billig, Braun, Fortunato, Holy, Hunt, Van De Wege, Wagoner, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/13/21. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to how the legislature may convene a special
2 session; adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Article II, section 12 of the state
6 Constitution provides that special legislative sessions may be
7 convened by resolution of the legislature through an affirmative vote
8 in both chambers of two-thirds of the members elected. Such vote may
9 take place either during the legislative session or "during any
10 interim between sessions in accordance with such procedures as the
11 legislature may provide by law or resolution." The legislature finds
12 that in order to act swiftly and effectively when the need for a
13 special session arises during an interim, as well as preserve
14 continuity of process, the procedures for calling itself into special
15 session should be memorialized in law.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The legislature may convene a special legislative session as
19 follows:

1 (1) A resolution calling for convening a special legislative
2 session shall set forth the date and time for convening the session,
3 the duration of the session which shall not exceed 30 days, together
4 with the purpose or purposes for which the session is called. Members
5 of the house of representatives or senate may present a proposed
6 resolution for the convening of a special legislative session to the
7 committee on rules of their respective houses.

8 (2) The authority to place a resolution convening a special
9 legislative session before the legislature is vested in the committee
10 on rules of the house of representatives and the committee on rules
11 of the senate.

12 (3) Upon a majority vote of both the committee on rules of the
13 house of representatives and the committee on rules of the senate in
14 favor of a resolution convening a special legislative session, a vote
15 of the house of representatives and senate shall be taken on such
16 resolution.

17 (4) The chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
18 secretary of the senate shall conduct the vote on the resolution by
19 written ballot of the members of their respective houses under such
20 procedures as may be ordered by the committee on rules of their
21 house. The results of such vote shall be transmitted to the members
22 of the legislature and shall be a public record and shall be entered
23 upon the journal of the house of representatives and senate at the
24 convening of the next legislative session.

25 (5) If two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to each
26 house vote in favor of the resolution, then a special legislative
27 session shall be convened in accordance with the resolution.

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