

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1207

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**As Passed House:**  
February 22, 2011

**Title:** An act relating to compliance with Article II, section 12 of the state Constitution.

**Brief Description:** Complying with the constitutional requirement to set a starting time for regular legislative sessions.

**Sponsors:** Representative Overstreet.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

State Government & Tribal Affairs: 2/3/11 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/22/11, 88-6.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Designates a 12 noon start time in statute for the first day of the annual regular session.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Taylor, Ranking Minority Member; Overstreet, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Condotta, Darneille, Hurst and Miloscia.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Dunshee and McCoy.

**Staff:** Joan Elgee (786-7106).

**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

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more than 105 consecutive days. During an even-numbered year, the regular session shall not be more than 60 consecutive days.

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

**Summary of Bill:**

Legislative findings are made that the Legislature has relied on custom and joint legislative rules, rather than statute, to set the start time of the first day of session as 12 noon. Since the Constitution specifically directs that the time be determined by statute, the Legislature intends to add the 12 noon start time.

A 12 noon start time is designated in statute as the 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) This simple bill brings the statute into compliance with Article II, section 12 of the Washington Constitution.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Overstreet, prime sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.