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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2289**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1992 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Ebersole, Wineberry, R. Meyers, Winsley, D. Sommers, R. King and Anderson)

Read first time 01/31/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to the legislature and terms of state officials and  
2 members of the legislature; amending RCW 44.04.010 and 43.01.010;  
3 adding new sections to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** For the following reasons, the  
6 legislature finds that the second Monday in January, the traditional  
7 date for convening a regular session of the legislature, is  
8 inappropriate during odd-numbered years: First, a new governor just  
9 commencing his or her term does not have reasonable opportunity to  
10 study or revise the previous governor's proposed biennial budget before  
11 commencement of the legislative session and legislative consideration  
12 of that budget, nor does the new governor have reasonable opportunity  
13 to become familiar with other important policy proposals of the  
14 previous governor; and second, the newly elected members of the

1 legislature also have insufficient opportunity to become familiar with  
2 important state issues before they are required to act on those issues,  
3 particularly fiscal issues. Therefore, in order to give more voice to  
4 the electorate as reflected in their most recent gubernatorial and  
5 legislative choices, in order to provide governors and legislators with  
6 more opportunity to become familiar with important public policy  
7 issues, particularly fiscal issues, and in order to provide for the  
8 efficient transition between old and new governors and between old and  
9 new legislators, the legislature enacts this law extending the date for  
10 convening of the regular session of the legislature during odd-numbered  
11 years.

12       **Sec. 2.** RCW 44.04.010 and 1980 c 87 s 27 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14       Regular sessions of the legislature shall be held annually,  
15 commencing on the second Monday of February in each odd-numbered year  
16 and on the second Monday of January in each even-numbered year.

17       **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.01.010 and 1965 c 8 s 43.01.010 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19       The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer,  
20 auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction,  
21 commissioner of public lands, and insurance commissioner, shall hold  
22 office for the term of four years, and until their successors are  
23 elected and qualified; and the term shall commence on the ((~~Wednesday~~  
24 ~~after the~~)) second Monday of January following their election.

25       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

1 Members of the legislature shall hold office for the terms provided  
2 in Article II of the state Constitution; and the term shall commence on  
3 the second Monday of January following their election.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) On the second Monday of January of each odd-numbered year, the  
7 legislature shall meet for the following purposes:

8 (a) To canvass the votes for elected state officers as provided in  
9 Article III, section 4 of the state Constitution;

10 (b) To judge the election, returns, and qualifications of its  
11 members as provided in Article II, section 8 of the state Constitution;  
12 and

13 (c) To administer the oath of office of such state officers and  
14 members of the legislature.

15 (2) The legislature may also elect its officers and adopt rules of  
16 procedure at such meeting, but it shall not pass legislation unless  
17 convened in regular or special session pursuant to Article II, section  
18 12 of the state Constitution.