

---

HOUSE BILL 2724

---

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Pruitt, Anderson, Reams, Silver, Campbell, Brown, R. Johnson, Holm, Roland, Jones, King and Springer

Read first time 01/21/94. Referred to Committee on State Government.

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 legislature  
6 finds that the second Monday in January, the traditional date for  
7 convening a regular session of the legislature, is inappropriate during  
8 odd-numbered years: First, a new governor just commencing his or her  
9 term does not have reasonable opportunity to study or revise the  
10 previous governor's proposed biennial budget before commencement of the  
11 legislative session and legislative consideration of that budget, nor  
12 does the new governor have reasonable opportunity to become familiar  
13 with other important policy proposals of the previous governor; and  
14 second, the newly elected members of the legislature also have  
15 insufficient opportunity to become familiar with important state issues  
16 before they are required to act on those issues, particularly fiscal  
17 issues. Therefore, in order to give more voice to the electorate as  
18 reflected in their most recent gubernatorial and legislative choices,  
19 in order to provide governors and legislators with more opportunity to

1 become familiar with important public policy issues, particularly  
2 fiscal issues, and in order to provide for the efficient transition  
3 between old and new governors and between old and new legislators, the  
4 legislature enacts this law extending the date for convening of the  
5 regular session of the legislature during odd-numbered years.

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

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

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

13       The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer,  
14 auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction,  
15 commissioner of public lands, and insurance commissioner, shall hold  
16 office for the term of four years, and until their successors are  
17 elected and qualified; and the term shall commence on the ((~~Wednesday~~  
18 ~~after the~~)) second Monday of January following their election.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1       (2) The legislature may also elect its officers and adopt rules of  
2 procedure at such meeting, but it shall not pass legislation unless  
3 convened in regular or special session pursuant to Article II, section  
4 12 of the state Constitution.

--- END ---