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## State Government & Tribal Relations Committee

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### HJR 4210

**Brief Description:** Amending the state Constitution to allow the legislature to determine the duration of regular sessions.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Thomas, Parshley, Springer, Berry, Peterson, Obras, Simmons, Ramel, Ormsby, Zahn, Reed, Hill and Reeves.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates the durational limits for regular sessions of the Legislature set by the state Constitution and directs the Legislature to set the dates for adjournment of regular sessions.

**Hearing Date:** 1/27/26

**Staff:** Connor Schiff (786-7093).

#### Background:

The state Constitution requires that a regular session of the Legislature be convened each year. The Constitution also sets limits on the duration of regular sessions. During each odd-numbered year, a regular session may not be more than 105 consecutive days. During each even-numbered year, a regular session may not be more than 60 consecutive days.

The Constitution directs the Legislature to enact legislation to set the date for convening regular sessions. The regular term of office for each senator and representative also commences on this date. Since 1891 the Legislature has convened each regular session on the second Monday of January.

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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 part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The following durational provisions of the Constitution are prompted by the adjournment of session:

- No act, law, or bill subject to referendum may take effect until 90 days after the adjournment of the session at which it was enacted.
- No bill may be considered in either house if introduced within the 10 days prior to the adjournment of session, unless the Legislature directs otherwise by a two-thirds vote of all members elected to each house.
- If the Legislature adjourns within five days of passing a bill, preventing its return, the Governor has 20 days (Sundays excepted) after the adjournment of session to file the bill with objections in Office of the Secretary of State.
- The Legislature may reconvene, with a two-thirds vote of each house, within 45 days (Sundays excepted) of the adjournment of session to reconsider vetoed bills.

**Summary of Bill:**

The durational limits on regular sessions set by the state Constitution are eliminated. The Legislature must enact legislation to set the dates for the adjournment of regular sessions.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.