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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4210

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Thomas, Parshley, Springer, Berry, Peterson, Obras, Simmons, Ramel, Ormsby, Zahn, Reed, Hill, and Reeves

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article II, section 12 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8 Article II, section 12. (1) Regular Sessions. A regular session  
9 of the legislature shall be convened each year. Regular sessions  
10 shall convene and adjourn on such days and at such times as the  
11 legislature shall determine by statute. (~~During each odd-numbered~~  
12 ~~year, the regular session shall not be more than one hundred five~~  
13 ~~consecutive days. During each even-numbered year, the regular session~~  
14 ~~shall not be more than sixty consecutive days.))~~

15 (2) Special Legislative Sessions. Special legislative sessions  
16 may be convened for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days  
17 by proclamation of the governor pursuant to Article III, section 7 of  
18 this Constitution. Special legislative sessions may also be convened  
19 for a period of not more than thirty consecutive days by resolution  
20 of the legislature upon the affirmative vote in each house of two-  
21 thirds of the members elected or appointed thereto, which vote may be  
22 taken and resolution executed either while the legislature is in

1 session or during any interim between sessions in accordance with  
2 such procedures as the legislature may provide by law or resolution.  
3 The resolution convening the legislature shall specify a purpose or  
4 purposes for the convening of a special session, and any special  
5 session convened by the resolution shall consider only measures  
6 germane to the purpose or purposes expressed in the resolution,  
7 unless by resolution adopted during the session upon the affirmative  
8 vote in each house of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed  
9 thereto, an additional purpose or purposes are expressed. The  
10 specification of purpose by the governor pursuant to Article III,  
11 section 7 of this Constitution shall be considered by the legislature  
12 but shall not be mandatory.

13 (3) Committees of the Legislature. Standing and special  
14 committees of the legislature shall meet and conduct official  
15 business pursuant to such rules as the legislature may adopt.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment  
17 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state  
18 Constitution.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislature, pursuant to its  
20 authority under RCW 29A.36.020(3), specifies the statement of subject  
21 and concise description shall read: "The legislature has proposed a  
22 constitutional amendment concerning the scheduling of regular  
23 sessions of the House and Senate. This amendment would give the  
24 legislature the authority to pass laws determining the duration of  
25 regular sessions in both odd and even years, to address the needs of  
26 Washington's population."

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
28 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
29 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every  
30 legal newspaper in the state.

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