

**First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R15-1054.01 Nicole Myers x4326

HCR15-1003

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15-1003

101 **SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF**
102 **COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION**
103 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE**
104 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
105 **DECREASING THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF**
106 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY**
107 **CALENDAR DAYS TO NINETY CALENDAR DAYS IN ODD-NUMBERED**
108 **YEARS AND TO SIXTY CALENDAR DAYS IN EVEN-NUMBERED**
109 **YEARS, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**
110 **THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY INTRODUCE**
111 **DURING A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND**
112 **ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS.**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Resolution Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billssummaries>.)

The resolution makes the following changes regarding the operations of the general assembly:

- ! Decreases the maximum length of regular sessions of the general assembly from 120 calendar days to 90 calendar days in odd-numbered years and 60 calendar days in even-numbered years;
- ! Requires a biennial budget session to be held in every odd-numbered year;
- ! Limits the number of bills that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 bills in any regular session of the general assembly, excluding bills for appropriations and bills recommended by legislative committees;
- ! Limits the number of resolutions that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 resolutions in the first regular session of any general assembly. This includes resolutions, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions.
- ! Prohibits a member of the general assembly from introducing a resolution of any kind during the second regular session of any general assembly;
- ! Allows both houses of the general assembly to create a restrictive process to authorize an exemption from the specified bill and resolution limits; and
- ! Beginning with the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2017, implements a biennial state budget cycle and specifies how the general assembly will apply existing constitutional requirements to the biennial budget process.

1 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*
3 **SECTION 1.** At the election held on November 8, 2016, the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the
5 ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state

1 constitution:

2 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 7 of
3 article V as follows:

4 **Section 7. General assembly - shall meet when - term of**
5 **members - committees.** The general assembly shall meet in regular
6 session at 10 a.m. no later than the second Wednesday of January of each
7 year. The general assembly shall meet at other times when convened in
8 special session by the governor pursuant to section 9 of article IV of this
9 constitution or by written request by two-thirds of the members of each
10 house to the presiding officer of each house to consider only those
11 subjects specified in such request. The term of service of the members of
12 the general assembly shall begin on the convening of the first regular
13 session of the general assembly next after their election. The committees
14 of the general assembly, unless otherwise provided by the general
15 assembly, shall expire on the convening of the first regular session after
16 a general election. Regular sessions of the general assembly HELD IN
17 ODD-NUMBERED YEARS SHALL BE THE BIENNIAL BUDGET SESSION AND
18 shall not exceed ~~one hundred twenty~~ NINETY CONSECUTIVE calendar days.
19 REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED
20 YEARS SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS.

21 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 17 of
22 article V as follows:

23 **Section 17. No law passed but by bill - amendments -**
24 **resolutions - limitations.** (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and
25 no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house
26 as to change its original purpose.

27 (2) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE

1 MORE THAN TWO BILLS IN A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY, EXCLUDING BILLS FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND BILLS
3 RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEES THAT ARE CREATED BY THE GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY AND THAT MEET DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION OR DURING
5 THE INTERIM. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION
6 (2), EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH A
7 RESTRICTIVE PROCESS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
8 MAY OBTAIN PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO BILLS DURING
9 ANY REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTHING IN THIS
10 SUBSECTION (2) SHALL LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BILLS ORIGINATING IN THE
11 OTHER HOUSE THAT A LEGISLATOR MAY INTRODUCE IN THE SECOND
12 HOUSE.

13 (3) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE
14 MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS, JOINT
15 RESOLUTIONS, AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, DURING THE FIRST
16 REGULAR SESSION OF ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A MEMBER OF THE
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION OF ANY KIND
18 DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
19 NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), EACH HOUSE
20 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH A RESTRICTIVE PROCESS BY
21 WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY OBTAIN PERMISSION
22 TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS DURING THE FIRST
23 REGULAR SESSION OF ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR TO INTRODUCE ONE OR
24 MORE RESOLUTIONS DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF ANY
25 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

26 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 32 of
27 article V as follows:

1 **Section 32. Appropriation bills - biennial budget cycle.**

2 (1)(a) BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2017,
3 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL FOLLOW A BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET
4 CYCLE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL INTRODUCE AND CONSIDER A
5 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL AND ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
6 BILLS IN THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7 (b) THE REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE X OF
8 THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL APPLY TO EACH FISCAL YEAR ON THE BIENNIAL
9 STATE BUDGET CYCLE.

10 (c) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL CALCULATE ANY STATE FISCAL
11 YEAR SPENDING LIMITS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THIS
12 CONSTITUTION ON A SINGLE FISCAL YEAR BASIS.

13 (d) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT, AMEND, OR REPEAL
14 ANY LAWS OR RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
15 SUBSECTION (1).

16 (2) The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but
17 appropriations for the expense of the executive, legislative and judicial
18 departments of the state, state institutions, interest on the public debt and
19 for public schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate
20 bills, each embracing but one subject.

21 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote
22 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall
23 there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning
24 modifications to the operations of the general assembly, and, in
25 connection therewith, decreasing the maximum length of regular sessions
26 of the general assembly from one hundred twenty calendar days to ninety
27 calendar days in odd-numbered years and to sixty calendar days in

1 even-numbered years, limiting the number of bills and resolutions that a
2 member of the general assembly may introduce during a regular session
3 of the general assembly, and establishing a biennial budget process?"

4 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123,
5 Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the
6 ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become part of the
7 state constitution.