1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)
3	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1 By: Anderson
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6	<u>AS INTRODUCED</u>
7	A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or
8	rejection proposed amendments to Sections 1, 10A, 17, 27A, 29, 33 and 34 of Article V, Sections 5, 11, 14
9	and 15 of Article VI, Section 3 of Article VIII, Section 23 of Article X and Section 1 of Article XXIV
10	of the Oklahoma Constitution and the repeal of Sections 9A and 28 of Article V of the Oklahoma
11	Constitution; vesting legislative authority of the state in one house; providing for apportionment of
12	state into legislative districts; specifying qualifications of members of Legislature; providing
13	procedures for operations of Legislature; deleting references to two houses of Legislature; modifying
14	gubernatorial succession; providing an effective date; providing ballot title; and directing filing.
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17	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18	1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:
19	SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for
20	their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,
21	the following proposed amendments to Sections 1, 10A, 17, 27A, 29,
22	33 and 34 of Article V, Sections 5, 11, 14 and 15 of Article VI,
23	Section 3 of Article VIII, Section 23 of Article X, and Section 1 of
24	Article XXIV of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

Article V, Section 1. The Legislative authority of the State shall be vested in a Legislature, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives <u>one house</u>; but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the Legislature, and also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act of the Legislature.

8 Article V, Section 10A. The House of Representatives 9 <u>Legislature</u> shall consist of the number of <u>one hundred one</u> 10 Representatives as determined by the formula and procedure set forth 11 herein. The number of members of the House of Representatives to 12 which each county shall be entitled shall be determined according to 13 the following formula:

14 a. The total population of the state as ascertained by the most
15 recent Federal Decennial Census shall be divided by the number one
16 hundred and the quotient shall be the ratio of representation in the
17 House of Representatives, except as otherwise provided in this
18 Article.

b. Every county having a population less than one full ratio
shall be assigned one Representative; every county containing an
entire ratio but less than two ratios shall be assigned two
Representatives; every county containing a population of two entire
ratios but less than three ratios shall be assigned three
Representatives; and every county containing a population of three

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1 entire ratios but less than four ratios shall be assigned four
2 Representatives.

After the first four Representatives, a county shall qualify for
additional representation on the basis of two whole ratios of
population for each additional Representative.
Each Representative nominated and elected shall hold office for
two years In apportioning the Legislature, consideration shall be
given to population, compactness, area, political units, historical
precedents, economic and political interests, contiguous territory,

10 and other major factors, to the extent feasible.

11 Each legislative district shall be entitled to one

12 Representative who shall hold office for two (2) years.

Article V, Section 17. Members of the <u>Senate Legislature</u> shall be at least <u>twenty-five years of age</u>, and <u>members of the House of</u> Representatives twenty-one years of age at the time of their election. They shall be qualified electors in their respective counties or districts and shall reside in their respective counties or districts during their term of office.

Article V, Section 27A. (1) The Legislature may be called into special session by a written call for such purposes as may be specifically set out in the call, signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate and two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of Representatives thereof when it is filed with the President <u>Pro Tempore of the Senate and the</u> Speaker of the House of Representatives Legislature who shall issue jointly an order for the
 convening of the special session.

3 (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent the calling of a
4 special session of the Legislature by the Governor, as provided by
5 the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma.

6 Article V, Section 29. The House of Representatives Legislature 7 shall, at the beginning of each regular session and at such other 8 times as may be necessary, elect one of its members Speaker.

9 Article V, Section 33. A. All bills for raising revenue shall
10 originate in the House of Representatives. The Senate may propose
11 amendments to revenue bills.

12 B. No revenue bill shall be passed during the five last days of 13 the session.

14 C. <u>B.</u> Any revenue bill originating in the House of 15 Representatives shall not become effective until it has been 16 referred to the people of the state at the next general election 17 held throughout the state and shall become effective and be in force 18 when it has been approved by a majority of the votes cast on the 19 measure at such election and not otherwise, except as otherwise 20 provided in subsection D C of this section.

21 D. C. Any revenue bill originating in the House of 22 Representatives may become law without being submitted to a vote of 23 the people of the state if such bill receives the approval of three-24 fourths (3/4) of the membership of the House of Representatives and

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three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Senate Legislature and is submitted to the Governor for appropriate action. Any such revenue bill shall not be subject to the emergency measure provision authorized in Section 58 of this Article and shall not become effective and be in force until ninety days after it has been approved by the Legislature, and acted on by the Governor.

7 Article V, Section 34. Every bill shall be read on three 8 different days in each House the Legislature, and no bill shall 9 become a law unless, on its final passage, it be read at length, and 10 no law shall be passed unless upon a vote of a majority of all the 11 members elected to each House the Legislature in favor of such law; 12 and the question, upon final passage, shall be taken upon its last 13 reading, and the yeas and nays shall be entered upon the journal.

Article VI, Section 5. The returns of every election for all 14 15 elective state officers shall be sealed up and transmitted by the returning officers to the Secretary of State, directed to the 16 17 Speaker of the House of Representatives Legislature, who shall, immediately after the organization of the House Legislature, and 18 before proceeding to other business, open and publish the same in 19 the presence of a majority of each branch of the Legislature, who 20 shall for that purpose assemble in the hall of the House of 21 Representatives Legislature. The persons respectively having the 22 highest number of votes for either of the said offices shall be 23 declared duly elected; but in case two or more shall have an equal 24

1 and the highest number of votes for either of said offices, the 2 Legislature shall, forthwith, by joint ballot, choose one of the 3 said persons so having an equal and the highest number of votes for 4 said office.

5 Article VI, Section 11. Every bill which shall have passed the Senate and House of Representatives Legislature, and every 6 resolution requiring the assent of both branches of the Legislature, 7 shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor; if he 8 9 approve the Governor approves, he the Governor shall sign it; if 10 not, he the Governor shall return it with his objections to the house in which it shall have originated Legislature, who shall enter 11 12 the objections at large in the Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members elected to 13 that house the Legislature shall agree to pass the bill or joint 14 15 resolution, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered; and, if 16 approved by two-thirds of the members elected to that house, it 17 shall become a law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. 18 In all such cases, the vote in both houses the Legislature shall be 19 determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting 20 shall be entered on the Journal of each house respectively. If any 21 bill or resolution shall not be returned by the Governor within five 22 days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him 23 the Governor, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he the 24

Governor had signed it, unless the Legislature shall, by their its adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not become a law without the approval of the Governor. No bill shall become a law after the final adjournment of the Legislature, unless approved by the Governor within fifteen days after such adjournment.

Article VI, Section 14. In case of a disagreement between the 6 7 two houses of the Legislature, at a regular or special session, with respect to the time of adjournment, the Governor may, if the facts 8 9 be certified to him, by the presiding officer of the house first 10 moving the adjournment, adjourn them to such time as he shall deem 11 proper, not beyond the day of the next stated meeting of the 12 Legislature. He The Governor may convoke the Legislature at or adjourn it to another place, when, in his the Governor's opinion, 13 the public safety or welfare, or the safety or health of the members 14 require it: Provided, however, That such change or adjournment 15 shall be concurred in by a two-thirds vote of all the members 16 elected to each branch of the Legislature. 17

Article VI, Section 15. The Lieutenant Governor shall possess the same qualifications of eligibility for office as the Governor. He shall be president of the Senate, but shall have only a casting vote therein, and also in joint vote of both houses. If, during a vacancy of the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall be impeached, displaced, resign, die or be absent from the State, or become incapable of performing the duties of the office, the

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1 president, pro tempore, of the Senate, shall act as Governor until 2 the vacancy be filled or the disability shall cease; and if the 3 president, pro tempore, of the Senate, for any of the above enumerated causes, shall become incapable of performing the duties 4 5 pertaining to the office of Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Legislature shall act as Governor until the vacancy 6 be filled or the disability shall cease. Further provisions for 7 succession to the office of Governor shall be prescribed by law. 8

9 Article VIII, Section 3. When sitting as a Court of 10 Impeachment, the Senate Legislature shall be presided over by the 11 Chief Justice, or if he the Chief Justice is absent or disqualified, 12 then one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, to be selected by it, except in cases where all the members of said court 13 are absent or disqualified, or in cases of impeachment of any 14 Justice of the Supreme Court, then the Senate Legislature shall 15 elect one of its own members as a presiding officer for such 16 purpose. The House of Representatives shall present all 17

18 impeachments.

Article X, Section 23. The state shall never create or authorize the creation of any debt or obligation, or fund or pay any deficit, against the state, or any department, institution or agency thereof, regardless of its form or the source of money from which it is to be paid, except as may be provided in this section and in

Sections 24 and 25 of Article X of the Constitution of the State of
 Oklahoma.

To ensure a balanced annual budget, pursuant to the limitations contained in the foregoing, procedures are herewith established as follows:

1. Not more than forty-five (45) days or less than thirty-five 6 7 (35) days prior to the convening of each regular session of the Legislature, the State Board of Equalization shall certify the total 8 9 amount of revenue which accrued during the last preceding fiscal 10 year to the General Revenue Fund and to each Special Revenue Fund appropriated directly by the Legislature, and shall further certify 11 12 amounts available for appropriation which shall be based on a determination, in accordance with the procedure hereinafter 13 provided, of the revenues to be received by the state under the laws 14 in effect at the time such determination is made, for the next 15 ensuing fiscal year, showing separately the revenues to accrue to 16 the credit of each such fund of the state appropriated directly by 17 the Legislature. 18

Amounts certified as available for appropriation from each fund, as hereinbefore provided, shall be ninety-five percent (95%) of an itemized estimate made by the State Board of Equalization, which shall include all sources of revenue to each fund for the next ensuing fiscal year; provided, however, appropriated federal funds shall be certified for the full amount of the estimate. Said

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estimate shall consider any increase or decline in revenues that
 would result from predictable changes in the economy.

3 Legislative appropriations for any fiscal year, except for special appropriations provided for in paragraph 6, 7 or 8 shall be 4 5 limited to a sum not to exceed the total amount appropriated from all funds in the preceding fiscal year, plus twelve percent (12%), 6 adjusted for inflation for the previous calendar year. Said limit 7 shall be adjusted for funds not previously appropriated. 8 The limit 9 on the growth of appropriations shall be certified to by the State 10 Board of Equalization.

11 2. Such certification shall be filed with the Governor $_{\overline{\tau}}$ and the 12 President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Legislature. The Legislature shall 13 not pass or enact any bill, act or measure making an appropriation 14 of money for any purpose until such certification is made and filed, 15 unless the State Board of Equalization has failed to file said 16 17 certification at the time of convening of said Legislature. In such event, it shall be the duty of the Legislature to make such 18 certification pursuant to the provisions of this section. All 19 appropriations made in excess of such certification shall be null 20 and void; provided, however, that the Legislature may at any regular 21 session or special session, called for that purpose, enact laws to 22 provide for additional revenues or a reduction in revenues, other 23 than ad valorem taxes, or transferring the existing revenues or 24

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1 unappropriated cash on hand from one fund to another, or making 2 provisions for appropriating funds not previously appropriated 3 directly by the Legislature. Whereupon, it shall be the duty of the State Board of Equalization to make a determination of the revenues 4 5 that will accrue under such laws and ninety-five percent (95%) of the amount of any increase or decrease resulting, for any reason, 6 from such changes in laws shall be added to or deducted from the 7 amount previously certified available for appropriation from each 8 9 respective fund, as the case may be. The State Board of 10 Equalization shall file the amount of such adjusted certification, or additional certification for funds not previously appropriated 11 12 directly by the Legislature, with the Governor $_{\boldsymbol{\tau}}$ and with the 13 President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Legislature, and such adjusted 14 15 amount shall be the maximum amount which can be appropriated for all purposes from any such fund for the fiscal year being certified. 16

3. The State Board of Equalization shall meet within five (5) 17 days after the monthly apportionment in February of each year, and 18 at that time may adjust the certification, based upon the most 19 current information available, and determine the amount of funds 20 available for appropriation for that legislative session. At said 21 meeting the Board shall determine the limit on the growth of 22 appropriations as provided for in this section. 23

4. Surplus funds or monies shall be any amount accruing to the
 General Revenue Fund of the State of Oklahoma over and above the
 itemized estimate made by the State Board of Equalization.

5. All such surplus funds or monies shall be placed in a
Constitutional Reserve Fund by the State Treasurer until such time
that the amount of said Fund equals fifteen percent (15%) of the
General Revenue Fund certification for the preceding fiscal year.
Appropriations made from said Fund shall be considered special
appropriations.

10 6. a. Up to three-eighths (3/8) of the balance at the 11 beginning of the current fiscal year in the 12 Constitutional Reserve Fund may be appropriated for the forthcoming fiscal year, when the certification by 13 the State Board of Equalization for said forthcoming 14 fiscal year General Revenue Fund is less than that of 15 the current fiscal year certification. In no event 16 shall the amount of monies appropriated from the 17 Constitutional Reserve Fund be in excess of the 18 difference between the two said certifications. 19

b. (1) In years when the provisions of subparagraph a of
this paragraph are not applicable and the balance
at the beginning of the current fiscal year in
the Constitutional Reserve Fund is equal to or
greater than Eighty Million Dollars

(\$80,000,000.00), up to Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) may be expended for the purpose of providing incentives to support retention of at-risk manufacturing establishments in this state in order to retain employment for residents of this state. Such incentives shall be paid by the Oklahoma Tax Commission upon a unanimous finding by the Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate Legislature that: (a) such incentives have been recommended by an

- 11 (a) such incentives have been recommended by an
 12 independent committee created by the
 13 Legislature for such purposes as provided
 14 herein pursuant to criteria set out by law,
 - (b) the incentive will result in a substantial benefit to this state, and
- 17 (c) payment of the incentive would be in
 18 accordance with the provisions of this
 19 subparagraph and laws enacted to implement
 20 provisions of this subparagraph.
- (2) The independent committee will be composed of not
 less than seven (7) people appointed or otherwise
 determined pursuant to laws enacted by the
 Legislature providing for membership on the

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1 committee. The committee shall make 2 recommendations to the Governor $_{\overline{\tau}}$ and the Speaker 3 of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate Legislature for the 4 5 awarding of incentives. Such recommendations shall give priority to establishments which: 6 are at greater risk of losing jobs because 7 (a) the plant is no longer competitive or 8 9 leaving the state and thereby causing the 10 loss of more employment in this state than 11 other eligible recipients, and provide the largest economic impact to the 12 (b) 13 state. For any fiscal year, the incentives shall not 14 (3) exceed ten percent (10%) of the amount invested 15 by an establishment in capital assets to be 16 utilized in this state. Incentives may only be 17 paid pursuant to an investment contract between 18 the establishment and a state agency designated 19 by law, which provides for a specified amount of 20 investment in a capital asset to be made by the 21 establishment over a period of not to exceed five 22 (5) years. No incentive payment shall be made 23 prior to the actual investment by the 24

1 establishment. The contract shall make payment 2 of any incentives in any fiscal year contingent 3 on the balance at the beginning of such fiscal year in the Constitutional Reserve Fund being 4 5 equal to or greater than Eighty Million Dollars (\$80,000,000.00) and on the certification by the 6 State Board of Equalization for such fiscal year 7 of the amount available for appropriation from 8 9 the General Revenue Fund being greater than the 10 amount certified for the preceding fiscal year. Investment contracts authorized by this 11 12 subparagraph shall provide that if any incentive 13 payment is payable during a fiscal year in which either the balance at the beginning of the fiscal 14 year in the Constitutional Reserve Fund is not 15 equal to or greater than Eighty Million Dollars 16 17 (\$80,000,000.00) or when the certification by the State Board of Equalization for such fiscal year 18 General Revenue Fund is less than that of the 19 immediately prior fiscal year certification, then 20 any incentive payments which would have been 21 payable during such fiscal year shall be payable 22 23 in the first fiscal year when funds are available pursuant to the provisions of division (1) of 24

1 this subparagraph. In the event that the amount 2 of incentives payable under investment contracts 3 authorized by this subparagraph is greater than the amounts available for payment under this 4 5 subparagraph in a fiscal year, then no new contracts may be authorized during such year and 6 incentive payments which are made shall be 7 reduced pro rata as necessary to apply all 8 9 available funds to incentive payments which are 10 payable in such year.

(4) The Legislature is authorized to enact laws necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

7. Up to three-eighths (3/8) of the balance at the beginning of 14 the current fiscal year in the Constitutional Reserve Fund may be 15 appropriated for the current fiscal year if the State Board of 16 17 Equalization determines that a revenue failure has occurred with respect to the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury. 18 In no event shall the amount of monies appropriated from the 19 20 Constitutional Reserve Fund pursuant to this paragraph be in excess of the amount of the projected revenue failure in the General 21 Revenue Fund, which total amount shall be computed by the State 22 Board of Equalization, for the entire fiscal year. Monies 23 appropriated to any state governmental entity from the 24

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Constitutional Reserve Fund pursuant to this paragraph may only be made in order to ensure that the monies actually received by the entity for the then current fiscal year are equal to or less than, but not in excess of, the total appropriation amount for such entity in effect at the beginning of the then current fiscal year.

8. Up to one-quarter (1/4) of the balance at the beginning of 6 the current fiscal year in the Constitutional Reserve Fund may be 7 appropriated, upon a declaration by the Governor that emergency 8 9 conditions exist, with concurrence of the Legislature by a two-10 thirds (2/3) vote of the House of Representatives and Senate 11 Legislature for the appropriation; or said one-quarter (1/4) could 12 be appropriated upon a joint declaration of emergency conditions by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro 13 Tempore of the Senate Legislature, with a concurrence of a three-14 15 fourths (3/4) vote of the House of Representatives and Senate 16 Legislature.

9. That portion of every appropriation, at the end of each 17 fiscal year, in excess of actual revenues collected and allocated 18 thereto, as hereinafter provided, shall be null and void. Revenues 19 deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue 20 Fund or of any special fund (which derives its revenue in whole or 21 in part from state taxes or fees) shall, except as to principal and 22 interest on the public debt, be allocated monthly to each 23 department, institution, board, commission or special appropriation 24

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1 on a percentage basis, in that ratio that the total appropriation 2 for such department, institution, board, commission or special 3 appropriation from each fund for that fiscal year bears to the total of all appropriations from each fund for that fiscal year, and no 4 5 warrant shall be issued in excess of said allocation. Any department, institution or agency of the state operating on revenues 6 7 derived from any law or laws which allocate the revenues thereof to such department, institution or agency shall not incur obligations 8 9 in excess of the unencumbered balance of cash on hand. Nothing in 10 this section shall prevent, under such conditions and limitations as 11 shall be prescribed by law, the governing board of an institution of 12 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education from contracting with a president of such institution of 13 higher education for periods extending more than one (1) year, but 14 not to exceed three (3) years beyond the fiscal year in which the 15 contract is signed. 16

10. The Legislature shall provide a method whereby 17 appropriations shall be divided and set up on a monthly, quarterly 18 or semiannual basis within each fiscal year to prevent obligations 19 being incurred in excess of the revenue to be collected, and 20 notwithstanding other provisions of this Constitution, the 21 Legislature shall provide that all appropriations shall be reduced 22 to bring them within revenues actually collected, but all such 23 reductions shall apply to each department, institution, board, 24

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1 commission or special appropriation made by the State Legislature in the ratio that its total appropriation for that fiscal year bears to 2 3 the total of all appropriations from that fund for that fiscal year; provided, however, that the Governor shall have discretion to issue 4 5 deficiency certificates to the State Treasurer for the benefit of any department, institution or agency of the state, if the amount of 6 such deficiency certificates be within the limit of the current 7 appropriation for that department, institution or agency, whereupon 8 9 the State Treasurer shall issue warrants to the extent of such 10 certificates for the payment of such claims as may be authorized by 11 the Governor, and such warrants shall become a part of the public debt and shall be paid out of any money appropriated by the 12 Legislature and made lawfully available therefor; provided further, 13 that in no event shall said deficiency certificates exceed in the 14 15 aggregate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in 16 any fiscal year.

Article XXIV, Section 1. Any amendment or amendments to this 17 Constitution may be proposed in either branch of the Legislature, 18 and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members 19 elected to each of the two (2) houses the Legislature, such proposed 20 amendment or amendments shall, with the yeas and nays thereon, be 21 entered in their journals the Journal and referred by the Secretary 22 of State to the people for their approval or rejection, at the next 23 regular general election, except when the Legislature, by a two-24

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1 thirds (2/3) vote of each house, shall order a special election for 2 that purpose. If a majority of all the electors voting on any 3 proposed amendment at such election shall vote in favor thereof, it 4 shall thereby become a part of this Constitution.

5 No proposal for the amendment or alteration of this Constitution 6 which is submitted to the voters shall embrace more than one general 7 subject and the voters shall vote separately for or against each 8 proposal submitted; provided, however, that in the submission of 9 proposals for the amendment of this Constitution by articles, which 10 embrace one general subject, each proposed article shall be deemed a 11 single proposal or proposition.

12 SECTION 2. REPEALER The Secretary of State shall refer 13 to the people for their approval or rejection, as and in the manner 14 provided by law, the proposed repeal of Sections 9A and 28 of 15 Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution.

16 SECTION 3. The provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this 17 resolution shall become effective November 15, 2026.

18 SECTION 4. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional 19 amendment as set forth in SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this resolution shall 20 be in the following form:

BALLOT TITLE

22 Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. ____
23 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

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1 This measure amends various sections of Articles 5, 6, 8, 10 and 24 of the Oklahoma Constitution. Under current law, the 2 3 legislative authority of the state is vested in the Senate and the House of Representatives. This measure would vest this 4 5 authority in one house only, consisting of 101 legislators. Qualifications would be the same as for representatives under 6 7 current law. Procedures for legislative operations are changed to provide for one house only. References to the Senate and its 8 9 leadership are deleted. Two sections of law in Article 5 10 referring to the Senate are repealed. The provisions would 11 become effective November 15, 2026. 12 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED? 13 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO 14 15 SECTION 5. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall, 16 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file 17 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 3 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney 18 General. 19 20 55-1-100 CD 1/30/2015 4:01:04 PM 21 22 23 24