

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE JOINT  
4 RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

By: Brecheen

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6  
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State  
9 to refer to the people for their approval or  
10 rejection a proposed amendment to Sections 21 and 26  
11 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution; stating  
12 legislative intent; providing for regular legislative  
sessions in odd-numbered years for certain time  
period; modifying salaries; providing for  
noncodification; providing ballot title; and  
directing filing.

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15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
18 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

19 It is the intent of the Legislature to present a question to the  
20 people for a vote, which would require the Legislature to meet every  
21 other year rather than annually, and which would further require  
22 that legislative salaries be reduced accordingly. The Legislature  
23 finds that these changes will operate to reduce costs and expenses  
24 of state government by even more than the amount of the salary

1 reduction, in the form of lower costs for legislative operations and  
2 utilities, and further finds that these changes will significantly  
3 reduce the costs of maintenance and renovation of the State Capitol  
4 building, which will be able to be accomplished in the more lengthy  
5 legislative interim.

6 SECTION 2. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for  
7 their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law,  
8 the following proposed amendments to Sections 21 and 26 of Article V  
9 of the Oklahoma Constitution to read as follows:

10 Section 21. A. The Legislature shall enact laws to prohibit  
11 members of the Legislature from engaging in activities or having  
12 interests which conflict with the proper discharge of their duties  
13 and responsibilities.

14 B. The Board on Legislative Compensation is hereby created.  
15 ~~Said~~ The Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the  
16 Governor, two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
17 Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
18 Representatives. The members appointed by the Governor shall be  
19 from religious organizations, communications media, nonstate-  
20 supported educational institutions, labor organizations, and retail  
21 business; the members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
22 Senate shall be from agricultural and civic organizations; and the  
23 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
24 shall be from manufacturing and from professional fields not

1 otherwise specified. No member of the Legislature may be appointed  
2 to or serve on the Board. In addition to the members above provided  
3 for, the ~~Chairman~~ Chair of the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the  
4 Director of State Finance shall serve as ex officio nonvoting  
5 members of ~~said the~~ the Board. The ~~Chairman~~ Chair of ~~said the~~ the Board  
6 shall be designated by the Governor. Members of the Legislature  
7 shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Board on  
8 Legislative Compensation. If a member of the Legislature is  
9 incarcerated due to being charged with a criminal offense and  
10 subsequently is found guilty of the offense or pleads guilty or nolo  
11 contendere to the offense, the legislator shall return to the state  
12 any compensation the legislator received from the state while the  
13 legislator was incarcerated prior to the guilty verdict or plea or  
14 nolo contendere plea and shall not receive any compensation from the  
15 state during any incarceration following such verdict or plea. ~~Said~~  
16 The Board shall each two years review the compensation paid to the  
17 members of the Legislature and shall be empowered to change such  
18 compensation; such change to become effective on the fifteenth day  
19 following the succeeding general election; provided, the amount of  
20 such compensation set by the Board at its first meeting after  
21 November of 2018 shall not exceed one-half the amount set by the  
22 Board at its previous meeting. The members of the Board shall serve  
23 without compensation, but shall be entitled to receive necessary  
24

1 travel and subsistence expense as provided by law for other state  
2 officers.

3 Section 26. The Legislature shall meet in regular session at  
4 the seat of government at twelve o'clock noon on the first Monday in  
5 February of each odd-numbered year and the regular session shall be  
6 finally adjourned sine die not later than five o'clock p.m. on the  
7 last Friday in May of ~~each~~ that same year.

8 The Legislature shall also meet in regular session at the seat  
9 of government on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January  
10 of each odd numbered year, beginning at twelve o'clock noon for the  
11 purposes only of performing the duties as required by Section 5 of  
12 Article VI of the Constitution and organizing pursuant to the  
13 provisions of this Article and shall recess not later than five  
14 o'clock p.m. of that same day until the following first Monday in  
15 February of the same year, beginning at twelve o'clock noon.

16 SECTION 3. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional  
17 amendment as set forth in SECTION 2 of this resolution shall be in  
18 the following form:

19 BALLOT TITLE  
20 Legislative Referendum 3 State Question No. \_\_\_\_\_

21 THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

22 This measure amends Sections 21 and 26 of Article 5 of the State  
23 Constitution. It would require the Legislature to meet in  
24 regular sessions in odd numbered years. The dates and times for

1 meeting and adjourning would not change. It would also require  
2 the Board on Legislative Compensation to cut the amount of  
3 legislators' pay. It could not exceed half the previous amount.

4 SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

5 FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES \_\_\_\_\_

6 AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO \_\_\_\_\_

7 SECTION 4. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall,  
8 immediately after the passage of this resolution, prepare and file  
9 one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 3  
10 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney  
11 General.

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