

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0006

Legislative sessions.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Greear, Newsome, Sommers and Zwonitzer and Senator(s) Pappas, Perkins, Rothfuss, Schuler, Von Flatern and Wasserburger

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming  
2 Constitution by removing distinctions between legislative  
3 general and budget sessions including repealing the  
4 introductory vote requirement for bills in a legislative  
5 budget session and making conforming amendments.

6

7 *BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING,*  
8 two-thirds of all the members of the two houses, voting  
9 separately, concurring therein:

10

11 **Section 1.** The following proposal to amend Wyoming  
12 Constitution, Article 3, Sections 6, 7(a)(intro), 10 and 48  
13 is proposed for submission to the electors of the State of  
14 Wyoming at the next general election for approval or rejection

1 to become valid as a part of the Constitution if ratified by  
2 a majority of the electors at the election:

3

4 **Article 3, Section 6. Compensation of members; duration**  
5 **of sessions.**

6

7 The legislature shall not meet for more than sixty (60)  
8 legislative working days excluding Sundays during the term  
9 for which members of the house of representatives are elected,  
10 except when called into special session. The legislature  
11 shall determine by statute the maximum number of days not to  
12 exceed sixty (60) legislative working days to be devoted to  
13 ~~general and budget session, respectively~~ a regular session.

14 The legislature shall meet on odd-numbered years for a ~~general~~  
15 ~~and budget~~ regular session. The legislature may meet on even-  
16 numbered years for ~~budget~~ a regular session. ~~During the budget~~  
17 ~~session no bills except the budget bill may be introduced~~  
18 ~~unless placed on call by a two thirds vote of either house.~~

19 The legislature shall meet for no more than forty (40)  
20 legislative working days excluding Sundays in any (1)  
21 calendar year, except when called into special session. The  
22 compensation of the members of the legislature shall be as

1 provided by law; but no legislature shall fix its own  
2 compensation.

3

4 **Article 3, Section 7. Time and place of sessions.**

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6 (a) The legislature shall meet at the seat of government  
7 at twelve o'clock noon, on the second Tuesday of January of  
8 the odd-numbered years ~~for general and budget session~~ and may  
9 meet ~~on the second Tuesday of January of the~~ in even-numbered  
10 years for ~~budget session~~ regular sessions, and at other times  
11 when convened by the governor or upon call of the legislature  
12 as herein provided. The governor by proclamation may also, in  
13 times of war or grave emergency by law defined, temporarily  
14 convene the legislature at a place or places other than the  
15 seat of government. The legislature may convene a special  
16 session not to last longer than twenty (20) working days as  
17 follows:

18

19 **Article 3, Section 10. Presiding officers; other**  
20 **officers; each house to judge of election and qualifications**  
21 **of its members.**

22

1 The senate shall, at the beginning and close of each regular  
2 session convened during an odd-numbered year and at such other  
3 times as may be necessary, elect one of its members president;  
4 the house of representatives shall elect one of its members  
5 speaker; each house shall choose its other officers, and shall  
6 judge of the election returns and qualifications of its  
7 members.

8

9 **Article 3, Section 48. State census.**

10

11 At the ~~first budget~~second regular session of the legislature  
12 following the federal census, the legislature shall  
13 reapportion its membership based upon that census.  
14 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any bill~~  
15 ~~to apportion the legislature may be introduced in a budget~~  
16 ~~session in the same manner as in a general session.~~

17

18 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State shall endorse  
19 the following statement on the proposed amendment:

20

21 As originally adopted, the Wyoming Constitution limited  
22 legislative regular sessions to odd-numbered years (currently  
23 referred to as the "general session"). In 1972, voters amended

1 the Wyoming Constitution to allow the legislature discretion  
2 to also meet in even-numbered years for a "budget session."  
3 Under the 1972 Constitutional amendment, a super-majority  
4 vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the house or  
5 senate is required for legislation (other than the budget  
6 bill) to be considered during any "budget session." This  
7 vote is not required for legislation in the "general session."

8

9 The proposed amendment would remove this two-thirds  
10 (2/3) super-majority introductory vote requirement for the  
11 "budget session." The proposed amendment further removes  
12 language labeling regular sessions as "general sessions" or  
13 as "budget sessions." Constitutional limitations on the  
14 number of days the legislature may meet during any calendar  
15 year or in total for the two year term of the legislature are  
16 not affected by this amendment.

17

18

(END)