

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact  
**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed  
**Vote:** 4 - 1 - 0  
**Yeas:** Atkinson, Burdick, Metsger, Devlin  
**Nays:** Ferrioli  
**Exc.:** -  
**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/11, 2/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to require annual sessions of the Legislative Assembly. Provides that sessions beginning in odd-numbered year may not exceed 135 calendar days, and sessions beginning in even-numbered year may not exceed 45 calendar days. Allows legislative session to be extended by five days with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each chamber. Permits Legislative Assembly to hold a pre-session organizational session not subject to the limits on the number of calendar days permitted for a legislative session. Prohibits action on gubernatorial vetoes during pre-session organizational sessions. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at November 2010 General Election.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- *Armatta v. Kitzhaber, 1998*
- Limitations of short legislative sessions
- Procedures and rules needed to execute annual sessions
- Ability of Legislative Branch to provide budgetary and agency oversight
- Previous proposals to modify legislative sessions
- Public participation, transparency, and access in short legislative sessions
- Length of legislative sessions in recent history
- Role of the Emergency Board
- Modernization of the Oregon Legislative Assembly

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Limits legislative sessions in odd-numbered years to 135 calendar days and in even-numbered years to 45 calendar days. Permits Legislative Assembly to hold a pre-session organizational session not subject to limits on the number of calendar days. Prohibits action on gubernatorial vetoes during pre-session organizational sessions. Allows a legislative session to be extended by five days by vote of two-thirds of the members of each chamber. Refers the proposed amendment to the November 2010 General Election.

**BACKGROUND:** Article IV, Section 10 of the Oregon Constitution establishes that “the sessions of the Legislative Assembly shall be held biennially at the Capitol of the State commencing on the second Monday of September, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty eight, and on the same day of every second year thereafter, unless a different shall have been appointed by law.”

ORS 171.010 establishes that “the sessions of the Legislative Assembly shall be held at the capital of the state and shall commence on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year.”

Currently, 45 state legislatures meet annually. The remaining five states—Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon and Texas—hold session every other year. Of the states that meet for annual legislative sessions, 32 have established constitutional or statutory limits on the length of each annual session. In addition, seven states whose legislatures meet annually limit one year of a biennium to consideration of specific types of legislation.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***