

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Abolishes daylight saving time on January 1, 2021. Directs Legislative Counsel to report to Senate and House Committees on Judiciary if Washington or California passes similar legislation. Refers Act to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Daylight saving time (DST) in the United States is the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during the warmer part of the year, so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less. Daylight saving time starts on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November, with the time changes taking place at 2:00 a.m. local time.

The practice has received both advocacy and criticism. It has been argued that DST promotes outdoor leisure activity in the evening (in summer), and is therefore good for physical and psychological health, reduces traffic accidents, reduces crime, or is good for business. In addition, it has been argued that DST save energy and in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DST was extended in the United States beginning in 2007. As of 2007, DST begins on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November. These changes result in a DST period that is five weeks longer than previously in years where April 1st falls on Monday through Wednesday and four weeks longer than previously in years where April 1st falls on Thursday through Sunday.

Criticism of the practice of DST includes complications in timekeeping and disruption of meetings, travel, billing, record keeping, medical devices, heavy equipment, and sleep patterns. Software can often adjust computer clocks automatically, but this can be limited and error-prone, particularly when various jurisdictions change the dates and timings of DST changes.

Under the Uniform Time Act, moving an area on or off DST is accomplished through legal action at the state level. Some states require legislation while others require executive action such as a governor's executive order. However, if a state decides to observe DST, the dates of observance must comply with federal legislation. Currently, most areas of the United States observe DST with the exceptions being Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation, which does observe daylight saving time), Hawaii, and the overseas territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

3/9/2015 8:10:00 PM *

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