

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1041.01 Nicole Myers x4326

**HCR16-1001**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lundeen**, Saine, Joshi, Nordberg, Klingenschmitt, Wist, Leonard, Becker J., Brown, Dore, Neville P., Ransom, Sias, Thurlow, Willett, Wilson

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

(None),

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**House Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**Senate Committees**

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16-1001**

101     **SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF**  
102             **COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION**  
103             **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE**  
104             **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
105             **DECREASING THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF REGULAR SESSIONS OF**  
106             **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY**  
107             **CALENDAR DAYS TO NINETY CALENDAR DAYS IN**  
108             **EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND TO SIXTY CALENDAR DAYS IN**  
109             **ODD-NUMBERED YEARS, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF BILLS AND**  
110             **RESOLUTIONS THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY**  
111             **INTRODUCE DURING A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL**  
112             **ASSEMBLY, ESTABLISHING A BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS, AND**  
113             **ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

**Resolution Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The resolution makes the following changes regarding the operations of the general assembly:

- ! Decreases the maximum length of regular sessions of the general assembly from 120 calendar days to 90 calendar days in even-numbered years and 60 calendar days in odd-numbered years;
- ! Requires a biennial budget session to be held in every even-numbered year;
- ! Limits the number of bills that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 bills in any regular session of the general assembly, excluding bills for appropriations and bills recommended by legislative committees;
- ! Limits the number of resolutions that a member of the general assembly may introduce to 2 resolutions in any regular session of the general assembly. This includes resolutions, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions, but excludes resolutions on the question of adjournment or relating solely to the transaction of business between the 2 houses.
- ! Allows both houses of the general assembly to create a restrictive process to authorize an exemption from the specified bill and resolution limits;
- ! Beginning with the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2018, implements a biennial state budget cycle and specifies how the general assembly will apply existing constitutional requirements to the biennial budget process; and
- ! Establishes the process for consideration of a general appropriation bill.

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1            *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*  
 2            *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

1           **SECTION 1.** At the election held on November 8, 2016, the  
2 secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the  
3 ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state  
4 constitution:

5           In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 7 of  
6 article V as follows:

7           **Section 7. General assembly - shall meet when - term of**  
8 **members - committees.** The general assembly shall meet in regular  
9 session at 10 a.m. no later than the second Wednesday of January of each  
10 year. The general assembly shall meet at other times when convened in  
11 special session by the governor pursuant to section 9 of article IV of this  
12 constitution or by written request by two-thirds of the members of each  
13 house to the presiding officer of each house to consider only those  
14 subjects specified in such request. The term of service of the members of  
15 the general assembly shall begin on the convening of the first regular  
16 session of the general assembly next after their election. The committees  
17 of the general assembly, unless otherwise provided by the general  
18 assembly, shall expire on the convening of the first regular session after  
19 a general election. Regular sessions of the general assembly HELD IN  
20 EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS SHALL BE THE BIENNIAL BUDGET SESSION AND  
21 shall not exceed ~~one hundred twenty~~ NINETY CONSECUTIVE calendar days.  
22 REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN ODD-NUMBERED  
23 YEARS SHALL NOT EXCEED SIXTY CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS.

24           In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 17 of  
25 article V as follows:

26           **Section 17. No law passed but by bill - amendments -**  
27 **resolutions - limitations.** (1) No law shall be passed except by bill, and

1 no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house  
2 as to change its original purpose.

3 (2) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE  
4 MORE THAN TWO BILLS IN A REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY, EXCLUDING BILLS FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND BILLS  
6 RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEES THAT ARE CREATED BY THE GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY AND THAT MEET DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, DURING  
8 THE INTERIM, OR DURING BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND THE  
9 INTERIM. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION (2),  
10 EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH A RESTRICTIVE  
11 PROCESS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY OBTAIN  
12 PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO BILLS DURING ANY REGULAR  
13 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)  
14 SHALL LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BILLS ORIGINATING IN THE OTHER HOUSE  
15 THAT A LEGISLATOR MAY INTRODUCE IN THE SECOND HOUSE.

16 (3) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTRODUCE  
17 MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS, JOINT  
18 RESOLUTIONS, AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, IN A REGULAR SESSION OF  
19 ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION (3), EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ESTABLISH  
21 A RESTRICTIVE PROCESS BY WHICH A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
22 MAY OBTAIN PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE MORE THAN TWO RESOLUTIONS  
23 DURING A REGULAR SESSION OF ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE LIMITATION  
24 ON THE NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL  
25 ASSEMBLY MAY INTRODUCE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) DOES NOT  
26 APPLY, IN ANY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO A RESOLUTION ON  
27 THE QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT OR A RESOLUTION RELATING SOLELY TO

1 THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.

2 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 32 of  
3 article V as follows:

4 **Section 32. Appropriation bills - biennial budget cycle.**

5 (1)(a) BEGINNING WITH THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2018,  
6 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL FOLLOW A BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET  
7 CYCLE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL INTRODUCE AND CONSIDER A  
8 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL AND ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
9 BILLS IN THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF EACH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

10 (b) THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE THE PROCESS USED FOR PURPOSES  
11 OF CONSIDERING A GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL:

12 (I) THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD HEARINGS AS  
13 REQUIRED TO REVIEW THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND THE BUDGET  
14 REQUESTS OF EACH STATE AGENCY AND INSTITUTION, INCLUDING  
15 PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND SHALL  
16 PREPARE FOR INTRODUCTION A GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL;

17 (II) AFTER INTRODUCTION OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL,  
18 THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL DIVIDE THE GENERAL  
19 APPROPRIATION BILL INTO CATEGORIES RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER  
20 EXPERTISE OF EACH COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE IN EACH HOUSE OF THE  
21 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND SUCH PORTIONS OF THE GENERAL  
22 APPROPRIATION BILL SHALL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEES OF  
23 REFERENCE SPECIFIED BY THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR  
24 CONSIDERATION. EACH COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE SHALL CONSIDER  
25 THOSE PORTIONS OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL RELATED TO THE  
26 SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE. THE  
27 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE MAY ALTER THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE

1 GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL; EXCEPT THAT THE COMMITTEES OF  
2 REFERENCE SHALL NOT INCREASE TOTAL FUNDING PROVIDED FOR ANY  
3 PARTICULAR STATE AGENCY OR INSTITUTION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE  
4 REVIEW, THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE SHALL MOVE THEIR PORTIONS OF  
5 THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE,  
6 OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE.

7 (III) THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
8 COMMITTEE, SHALL CONSIDER THE ENTIRE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL  
9 AFTER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE AND, UPON  
10 COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, SHALL ACT ON THE BILL AS REQUIRED BY  
11 RULE; AND

12 (IV) IN CASE OF ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES UPON  
13 THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL, THE TWO COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY  
14 THE HOUSES SHALL BE JOINTLY COMPOSED OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF  
15 MEMBERS SERVING ON THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS NOT  
16 SERVING ON THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE.

17 (c) THE REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE X OF  
18 THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL APPLY TO EACH FISCAL YEAR ON THE BIENNIAL  
19 STATE BUDGET CYCLE.

20 (d) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ENACT, AMEND, OR REPEAL  
21 ANY LAWS OR RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
22 SUBSECTION (1).

23 (2) The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing but  
24 appropriations for the expense of the executive, legislative and judicial  
25 departments of the state, state institutions, interest on the public debt and  
26 for public schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate  
27 bills, each embracing but one subject.

1           **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote  
2 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall  
3 there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning  
4 modifications to the operations of the general assembly, and, in  
5 connection therewith, decreasing the maximum length of regular sessions  
6 of the general assembly from one hundred twenty calendar days to ninety  
7 calendar days in even-numbered years and to sixty calendar days in  
8 odd-numbered years, limiting the number of bills and resolutions that a  
9 member of the general assembly may introduce during a regular session  
10 of the general assembly, establishing a biennial budget process, and  
11 establishing the process for consideration of the general appropriation  
12 bill?"

13           **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123,  
14 Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the  
15 ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become part of the  
16 state constitution.